

THE TIMES

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No.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23 1992

45p



NO WIN SEX WAR

Beware ideas
in the bedroom

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WHOSE GENERATION?

Rock rolls
over age gap

Life & Times, page 3



MARADONA FIGHTS BACK

Soccer's anti-hero
in Eldorado

Page 32

ON INSIDE PAGES

Cancer slip victims sue

Lawyers are seeking millions of pounds to compensate cancer patients who were given inadequate doses of radiotherapy and their families. About a hundred people are expected to seek damages from North Staffordshire District Health Authority for the error, which went unnoticed for ten years. Page 6

Ford cutbacks

Ford has extended short-time working at its Dagenham and Halewood plants for a further month. The company had hoped for an upturn in the car market, but sales this month are 11 per cent down. Page 16

Fishermen

Two Irish fishermen were feared drowned after their boat collided with a French trawler in the Bristol Channel. An RAF rescue helicopter searching for the men had to ditch in heavy seas, but the crew was unharmed. Page 5

Tibet ruling

China insisted that it would never contemplate independence for Tibet in a document that denounces the Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader. Peking describes the remote Himalayan region as stable, prosperous and content, but admits that living standards are lower than the Chinese average. Page 11

Secret mission

A British medical team has flown to Jordan to operate on President Saddam Hussein's deputy. The secret mission coincided with a Whitehall pledge that Iraq would never return to the international community while it imprisoned two Britons for straying into the country. Page 5



Clinton surge

Fresh opinion polls in America put Bill Clinton (above) 21 points ahead of President Bush — the biggest lead in recent surveys. The Washington Post-ABC poll figures were published as the Texan billionaire Ross Perot indicated that he was on the point of resuming his independent campaign for the presidency. Page 10

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Disappointed: Mona Bauwens and her husband, Mohammed Shourjabi, leave the High Court after her libel action ended with a hung jury

Mortgage cut offers shelter for Major

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

MORTGAGE rates began falling yesterday after the government cut interest rates by 1 per cent, easing the pressure on John Major in the run-up to tomorrow's emergency Commons debate on the economy.

This, the first tangible dividend from the government's changed economic policy since it pulled out of the European exchange-rate mechanism last week, will save a homebuyer with a £30,000 repayment mortgage more than £11 a month.

Leeds Permanent, Britain's fifth biggest building society, with half a million borrowers, was the first of the giants to cut its basic rate, by 0.75 per cent, from 10.7 per cent to 9.95 per cent — the first time mortgage rates have fallen below 10 per cent since the summer of 1988. Abbey National, in line with other leading lenders,

said it would cut rates by 0.75 per cent to 9.95 per cent. The Halifax, the largest building society, said rates would come down when the money markets settled, although it did not give a figure.

The one-point reduction put British rates below those of Germany for the first time in ten years and signalled a more aggressive approach to spurring the economy by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, who hailed the cut as good news for homebuyers and business.

It was justified, he said, by the progress on reducing inflation, now at 3.6 per cent, and the lowest factory gate prices for 20 years, but he tried to dampen expectations of further large cuts. Being outside the ERM was not a "free lunch" and if at any time he thought that inflation was going to pose a threat again he would have no hesitation in

putting rates up. Tory relief over the loan-rate cut was marred by worse-than-expected trade figures. The deficit, the biggest since April, widened sharply in August to

£1,085 million, £200 million higher than City forecasts. Downing Street sought to allay fears by arguing that the improved terms of trade with a cheaper pound would make it easier to get the balance of payments back on course. For the first time in months the government found itself being applauded by Eurosceptics. William Cash, Tory MP for Stafford, said: "I am absolutely delighted. This will give enormous relief to British industry and to homeowners. I very much hope this is only the beginning because we need them to come down still further."

Amid signs of cabinet tension about the future of the Maastricht treaty and ERM, the Labour leadership will today try to win the high ground on Europe with a new policy statement saying Labour has no intention of leaving Britain "on the sidelines". John Smith is to risk a confrontation with shadow cabinet rebels by asking them to accept an approach that embodies support for a single currency and for British membership of a reformed ERM system.

The new Labour document, extracts of which were obtained by *The Times* last night, reiterates Labour's support for "stable but adjustable exchange rates". In a move designed to fill the vacuum

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Danes put case for amended Maastricht

By GEORGE BROCK
AND CHARLES BRENNER

AS FRANCE and Germany yesterday piled further pressure on Britain over the ratification of the Maastricht treaty on economic and political union, the Danish prime minister said that Denmark wanted "substantial" changes in the treaty before holding a second referendum in the spring or autumn of 1993.

Mr Poul Schlüter announced after a cabinet meeting in Copenhagen that "the Maastricht treaty must be softened and moderated... because certain parts of the treaty are unacceptable to large proportions of the population of Denmark, France, Germany and Great Britain".

In Paris, Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and President Mitterrand met to reinforce Franco-German co-operation in the wake of currency turmoil and the French referendum. French commentators saw the hurriedly arranged Franco-German summit as an attempt to force the pace of Maastricht ratification.

In Bonn, the government announced that the Bundestag would begin the ratification process on October 8, a week before the special European Community summit in London, and would complete the process by the end of the year. Herr Kohl is opposed to changes to Maastricht.

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 Tory rebel MPs, page 2
 Public backs away, page 3

UK troops get firing guidelines

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH soldiers sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina will be withdrawn if they suffer "very heavy casualties", Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, told MPs yesterday.

The short-term limited humanitarian aid convoys, not to engage in "a massive fire-fight", he said. However, soldiers would be entitled to open fire "with everything they have got" if attacked, but only once they had pinpointed "precisely" who was responsible. Ap-

pearing before an emergency meeting of the all-party Commons defence committee, Mr Hamilton was questioned closely about the rules of engagement for the 1,800 British troops who are being sent to eastern Bosnia.

Winston Churchill, Tory MP for Daventry, demanded to know whether they would be able to respond to sniper fire with the 30mm cannon carried by Warrior armoured vehicles, which are to be shipped to Bosnia. The

minister said they would, but later said that 81mm mortars would be used, rather than the 30mm cannon. The latest details of Britain's role in Bosnia emerged as Major General Philippe Morillon, the French commander due to take charge of the UN reinforcements in Bosnia, including the British soldiers, was unable to give any firm guarantees as to the safety of the UN troops.

UN warning, page 10

Thou shalt not read thy stars nor dodge thy taxes

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS
IN ROME

THOU shalt not evade taxes, take bribes, deal in drugs or even consult horoscopes. Such misdeeds are as likely as prostitution, homosexuality and suicide to land unrepentant sinners in Hell, according to a new Roman Catholic catechism designed to bring church thinking up to date with modern temptations.

The 427-page *Universal Catechism* incorporates a more liberal interpretation of the Ten Commandments and takes a softer line on suicide, the death penalty, euthanasia, war and revolution. But a key section dedicated to morality defines several "modern sins" that could lead to the inferno if

absolution were not granted before death. They include drunken driving, manipulating public opinion, incitement to pornography and producing or peddling drugs, according to leaked copies of the manual.

The guide, which was approved by the Pope in June, is being translated into several languages for publication near Christmas. A French edition is already circulating in Rome and details were published in Italian newspapers yesterday.

Interpretation of the commandment "thou shalt not steal" is updated to include 20th-century vices such as speculation on prices, corruption, expropriation of public property for private uses, tax evasion, counterfeiting, tax fraud, forging cheques and

forging receipts. The catechism classifies as grave sins the consultation of mediums and horoscopes, superstition, sexual relations outside matrimony, divorce, slander and abortion.

Traditional sins such as prostitution, homosexuality and masturbation are regarded with more comprehension than before. For example, the catechism classifies prostitution as a sin because it is "an attack on the dignity of the person". But a person who sells her or his body is less guilty if it is done because of "poverty, blackmail and social pressure".

The catechism recommends chastity for homosexuals so that they might gradually "reach Christian perfection", but adds that the church must treat them "with respect, compassion

and delicacy. Unfair discrimination against them must be avoided". Masturbation is still frowned on as "a seriously disordered act", but the catechism says consideration should be taken of "immaturity, the force of social habits, states of anguish or other social and psychological factors that extenuate the moral guilt".

The document also reflects nuances in doctrinal thinking on the commandment "thou shalt not kill", for example with regard to suicide. In the previous catechism, drawn up before the first world war the church declared that "suicide is a sin like murder because God alone is master of our

Continued on page 16, col 3
 Paul's religion, page 15

Bauwens wants retrial after jury stalemate

By TIM JONES AND FRANCES GIBB

THE Mona Bauwens libel action ended in stalemate last night when the jury failed to reach a verdict on newspaper articles about the family holiday which David Mellor, the heritage secretary, shared with her during the Gulf crisis.

Mrs Bauwens, daughter of a senior PLO official, immediately announced she would seek a retrial, bringing the possibility of a second lengthy case in which Mr Mellor's judgment would be questioned.

A second case would also add substantially to the estimated £250,000 costs so far.

A hung jury is an extremely rare event in libel cases and unheard of in big cases. Equally unusual was the last-minute suggestion from counsel for Mrs Bauwens, when the jury was still split six-six after four hours of deliberation, that the judge should decide the case himself.

This was rejected by counsel for *The People*, which was defending the action. George Carman QC said: "An invitation to the judge at this stage comes too late. Confident as I am of your lordship's view, the parties agreed to trial by jury."

Mrs Bauwens, who claimed the article in *The People* had branded her a social leper not fit to be seen in decent company, briefly hugged Judith Mellor, the minister's wife, who was present in court. She said: "I am disappointed that the jury was not able to reach a consensus. I am disappointed that the defendants would not agree to the suggestion that the judge should rule on this."

Last night Richard Stott, former editor of *The People*, called on Mr Mellor to resign and hailed the decision as a "terrific victory".

Mr Stott, who now edits the *Daily Mirror*, said: "We have been vindicated. Mr Mellor has now got to answer questions as to why he took such an

expensive holiday with the daughter of an executive member of the PLO, the chairman of its financial committee, at a time when 4,000 British hostages were being held.

"If he can't answer them he should resign, and resign straight away." A retrial would be vigorously defended, he said.

The jury had heard that Mr Mellor, his wife and children spent a month-long holiday at a luxury villa in Marbella rented by Mrs Bauwens which had begun one day before Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

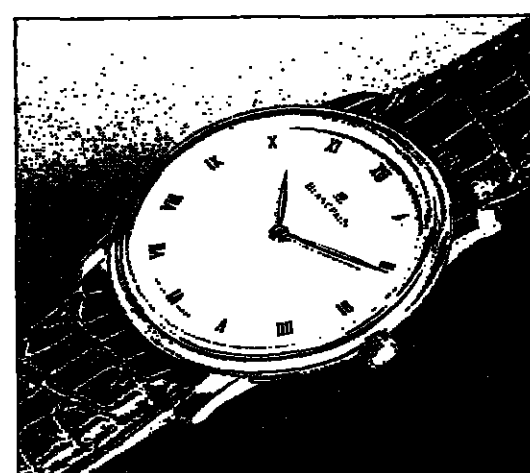
Downing Street yesterday brushed aside suggestions that David Mellor was about to resign. The prime minister's continuing support for the national heritage secretary was underlined amid a new wave of reports suggesting he would be forced to stand down. Page 6

Throughout the trial, Mr Carman maintained the article, which was published in September 1990, was designed to question Mr Mellor's political wisdom and judgment and was not an attack on Mrs Bauwens.

Mrs Bauwens intends to proceed to a retrial but the case is unlikely to come before the same judge, although if available when it comes up, he could seek to sit on again. After the result, Peter Carter-Ruck, the libel lawyer, said in 40 years of libel he had only ever come across one other case where there was a hung jury.

Yesterday's hung jury may fuel the debate over whether juries should decide libel cases at all, or perhaps be relieved of the task of deciding the amount of damages.

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Behind closed doors, the secret cabinet battle over Tory policy

TWO battles are being fought inside the Conservative Party over Europe. One is being waged in the open across the political landscape, with the fallen heroes of the past, such as Baroness Thatcher and Sir Edward Heath, assisted by groups of backbenchers.

Their arena is the television and radio studio or the press. Their weapons are the soundbite and the well-turned phrase.

But there is another struggle, in private, behind the closed doors of Whitehall. News from the front is shadowy. A reverse for the prime minister. A clash between Michael Heseltine and Norman Lamont. Rumours sweep Westminster and the City only to fall under the doctrine of collective cabinet responsibility. Yet it is this debate that mainly will determine the outcome.

The issue has not come out of the blue. The tortuous story of Britain's relations with the European Community has been a formative influence on the whole of the present cabinet. Many first became politically active in the 1960s when the tide of fashionable opinion in the Bow Group and other bodies of ambitious young Tories was strongly in



For the treaty: Clarke, Heseltine and Hurd

favour of entry. All ministers have had to take a stance on Europe some time in their careers. Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, and Kenneth Clarke, home secretary, voted in favour in the original Commons vote on entry in 1971-72.

Arguments over Europe played an important part in the coup against Lady Thatcher in November 1990. Mr Clarke and Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, were prominent in urging her to stand down after the first ballot and might have resigned if she had not. David Hunt, the Welsh Secretary, was the sole member of the cabinet to back Heseltine.

Positions were also taken up last November and De-

cember over the Maastricht agreement. John Major was careful to ensure that he had the support of the full cabinet and this would not have been achieved without the opt-outs on economic and monetary union and on the social charter, which subdued the sceptics in the government and ensured that there were no resignations.

It is a mistake to characterise the division as just between Euro-enthusiasts and Euro-sceptics. Instead, there is a spectrum of views ranging from the keen, though not federalist, to the dubious, though not overtly hostile to membership. A majority of the cabinet broadly backs Mr Major's view that Britain must be seen to be "at the very heart of Europe".

Public debate over Maastricht is only the surface of the conflict for the Euro-soul of Conservatism, write Nicholas Wood and Peter Riddell

They are worried that, because of differences in the party, the government may edge away from this commitment. At last Thursday's cabinet meeting, a majority of ministers wanted a clear pledge that Britain would re-enter the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) before long. Similarly, they believe that ratifying the Maastricht treaty, with the British opt-outs, is still the best way forward, even if no action is possible until after the Danish position is clarified.

The most prominent leaders of the EC supporters backing Maastricht are Mr Clarke, Mr Heseltine, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary. Mr Clarke was said yesterday to have urged a quick return to the ERM. John MacGregor, transport secretary, and a possible chancellor, is regarded by Euro-sceptics as for Maastricht and the ERM.

Others in this group, with

varying degrees of enthusiasm, include Mr Rifkind, William Waldegrave, minister for the citizen's charter, John Patten, education secretary, Virginia Bottomley, health secretary, John Gummer, agriculture minister, Anthony Newton, leader of the Commons, David Mellor, national heritage secretary, and Mr Hunt.

Mr Major, as befits his background in the whips' office, is inclined to find the centre of gravity in his cabinet and the party before declaring his hand. The centre ground is also occupied by Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Wakeham, the Lords leader, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, and Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary.

The Euro-sceptics are under-represented in the cabinet by comparison with their numbers on the backbenches.



Against closer links: Portillo, Lilley and Howard

More than 80 Tory MPs signed the Commons motion calling for a "fresh start" over Europe after Denmark's rejection of the Maastricht treaty, though at most 30 MPs have defied the whips on any European vote. Michael Portillo, chief secretary to the Treasury, Peter Lilley, social security secretary and Michael Howard, environment secretary, have made no secret of their opposition to closer European integration in Brussels. They have so far made little headway, but after the extraordinary events of last week, they appear to have gained a powerful recruit.

In the 1980s, Norman Lamont, the chancellor, was no friend of fixed exchange rates and did not share Nigel Lawson's view in 1989 that

standing aside from the ERM was a resigning matter. But the later version of Mr Lamont, who tried to make Mr Major's ERM policy work, never dissented and only a few weeks ago categorically dismissed any alternative to the ERM. In the eyes of the Eurosceptics, he is now seeing Mr Lamont reverting to his earlier stance. They have been heartened by his defence of floating and his readiness to regard the French vote as a significant brake on the road to European union.

"We are floating and we will set monetary policy in this country to meet our objectives... It will be a British economic policy and a British monetary policy," he said. By suggesting that public opin-

ion had to be consulted before Europe's leaders could proceed with Maastricht, he also strengthened his Euro-sceptic credentials.

One reason why there has not been more backbench pressure on Mr Lamont to resign over the ERM debate is that many Tory MPs regard him as the man best equipped to manage his party's return to its monetarist past. In the eyes of their supporters, Mr Portillo, Mr Lilley and Mr Howard have not acquitted themselves with honour, although Mr Portillo and Mr Lilley attended a meeting of rebel ministers in the summer to press for the scrapping of the treaty. But they could voice coded dissent.

Mr Howard has been the quickest to catch the new mood in the party. Although the least forthcoming of the cabinet Euro-sceptics in the internal debate about the direction of the government's economic and European policy, he amazed his cabinet colleagues by the vehemence with which he led last week's charge against an early return to the ERM. His friends say he would be happy to see both the ERM and the treaty fade into the background.

Rebels with a cause go on war footing

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE group of Conservative MPs spearheading backbench opposition to the Maastricht treaty and pressing for a permanent break with the European exchange-rate mechanism is to hold a council of war tonight on the eve of the Commons debate on the devaluation of sterling.

The group, whose inner core is made up of the 22 Tory MPs who voted against the Maastricht bill at second reading in May, plans to put itself

EURO-SCEPTICS

on a permanent footing and to elect an official leadership.

Michael Spicer, a former minister and an outspoken critic of the government's European policies, is expected to be named as chairman. Christopher Gill, Tory MP for Ludlow, and James Cran, Tory MP for Beverley, are tipped to become joint secretaries of the group.

The three MPs were the chief architects of the Commons motion in June that embarrassed the prime minister by calling for a "fresh start" over Europe in the wake of Denmark's rejection of the treaty. They gained more than 80 signatures from Tory MPs and provoked a fierce backlash from government whips. Mr Major rebuked the rebels for their naivety.

Over the summer, the group styled itself as the "suicide squad", a tongue-in-cheek reflection of the readiness of its members to jettison their politi-

cal ambitions for the anti-federalist cause. In future, it intends to be known as "Fresh start", a reference to the Commons motion that led the whips to warn many of the 24 new MPs among the signatories that they had put paid to their hopes of climbing the ministerial ladder.

About 15 to 20 rebels are expected at the Rodin restaurant in Millbank, London, to chart the course of the group and plot tactics for the Commons debate. They are planning to issue a "manifesto" later setting out the approach they want the prime minister to adopt. They plan to hold a further meeting at the Commons on Thursday morning to spread the word among sympathetic MPs. They claim the support of about 50 Tories.

The latest moves in the anti-Maastricht camp will be regarded with dismay by the prime minister and the government whips. Mr Major is seeking to prevent the renewed wrangling inside his party erupting into open civil war. He will be disappointed but not surprised to find that his most vociferous critics are digging in for a long campaign against him. However, he will not face an immediate revolt in the debate on the government motion approving the change of economic policy.

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Commons dirt may now stick to yesterday's Teflon man

MAJOR'S CHALLENGE

Peter Riddell reports on the difficulties that a chastened prime minister faces tomorrow

SIR Edward Heath has developed a skill for getting under the skin of his successors. Until recently he had backed John Major, mainly because he replaced Baroness Thatcher. But this week he turned on Mr Major, accusing him of a "vacuum of leadership" over European policy, by failing to press ahead rapidly with Commons ratification of the Maastricht treaty.

The charge epitomises the challenge Mr Major faces when he addresses the Commons tomorrow afternoon. It will be the most difficult speech of his prime ministerial career. Although not a natural Commons performer, he has seldom been under severe pressure, because of his conciliatory style and his personal popularity and, since April 9, because of the confidence produced by his election victory.

However, two of the main props of his premiership — belonging to the exchange-rate mechanism and being "at the very heart of Europe" — have now either collapsed or been severely shaken. In place of clearly defined strategies, there have been tactical manoeuvres to preserve party unity. He has appeared like a leader at the mercy of events, facing differences within his own cabinet and parliamentary party, and preferring to defer difficult decisions on the timing of Commons ratification, rather than to confront the dissenters.

Mr Major will have to satisfy several different audiences — his own party, the Commons as a whole and the public watching on television. But his task will be the same, to show that he is in charge. His main priority will be to state what the government's

policies are in face of the recent setbacks.

On Europe, he will have to reconcile the call by EC foreign ministers for early progress on ratification with his own desire for a pause for reconsideration. In his speech, he will point to the special EC heads of government council in London next month as the opportunity to review the ERM, to examine the worries expressed throughout Europe about excessive centralisation and to deal with the specific concerns of the Danes (whose white paper should be published before then).

Mr Major will argue that the recent European votes on Maastricht show that British reservations and opt-outs, were, and are, justified — that his government's version of a Community based on co-operation rather than centralisation has been vindicated.

On the ERM, he, and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, who will wind up the debate tomorrow evening, will have to clarify the uncertainty about when, and whether, sterling will re-enter. That date has been pushed to an indefinite future by Mr Lamont, to the pleasure of many Tory MPs, though a majority of the cabinet want the promise to be fulfilled.

Mr Major and Mr Lamont will also seek to bridge the jump from their unequivocal commitment to the ERM, up to a week ago, and their subsequent attempt to defend a floating regime as equally workable. Yesterday's one point cut in interest rates will be welcomed by Tory MPs, but the prime minister and Chancellor will have to explain why this was not previously possible under a fixed rate system they then defended.

Both ministers will stress that the government's goal remains the same: bearing down on inflation (though with no talk this week about zero inflation) to create conditions for sustainable growth. But this will mean caution about cutting interest rates and a tough public spending round.

This combination of earlier hopes of economic recovery and vagueness about the timing of ERM re-entry and about where any public spending squeeze will fall should see Mr Major through with his own side. The whips have had time to rally support and Labour has its own divisions. While tomorrow will be John Smith's Commons debut as Leader of the Opposition, it is the ideal occasion for a display of the forensic skills of exposing the weaknesses of the government's case which he deployed so successfully during the Westland crisis of early 1986.

Mr Major's real difficulty is more one of personal authority. He is no longer the Teflon leader. He is not used to a rough ride in the Commons. For the first time, he may be laughed at and ridiculed by MPs.

Contrasts continue to thrive

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE European Community is a collection of disparate nations with striking contrasts in areas as diverse as illegitimate births and trade balances, according to the latest batch of EC statistics published yesterday. Euro-sceptics will no doubt take heart from the report, which shows that differences are not just economic.

Nearly 28 per cent of

British babies are born outside wedlock, compared with 2 per cent in Greece.

France is the best place in the EC to be a woman, with life expectancy of 80.9 years, compared with 78.7 in Britain and 77 in Ireland. Men live longest in The Netherlands, with an average life expectancy of 73.8 years compared with 73.1 in Britain.

Scotland and the north of England account for the highest numbers of deaths from lung cancer, with more than 80 out of 100,000 people dying from the disease.

Britain trails behind Germany and France in its balance of trade figures. In 1990 Britain had a trade deficit of £cu 31,872 million (£24,706 million) compared with a surplus of £cu 47,424 million in Germany. France had a deficit of £cu 17,278 million.

Smith struggles with conflicting shades of grey

Nuance is everything in the struggle for a coveted place in the corridors of power, Philip Webster reports

THE Labour leader appears to have an easier job than the prime minister in handling party management problems over Europe. But in the labyrinthine world of Labour politics nothing is ever simple.

As they vie for coveted places on Labour's ruling national executive or in the shadow cabinet, the party's senior politicians know that nuance is everything. Those who want to avoid being painted into one camp or the other are loath even to disclose personal opinions on matters such as Maastricht referendums and exchange-rate mechanisms.

Neither is Europe the put issue for Labour that it is for the Tories. John Smith inherited a party leadership that had become steadily more pro-European under Neil Kinnock and he had played a significant role in the adoption of that stance.

Labour's economic and foreign policies are closely intertwined. The party embraced the exchange-rate mechanism because it gave credibility to its assertion that an election victory would not have meant a return to 1970s inflation.

The shadow cabinet pro-Europeans are headed by Mr Smith, Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, Tony Blair, shadow home secretary, Jack Cunningham, shadow foreign secretary, Ann Taylor, shadow education secretary, Donald Dewar, shadow social security secretary, and Harriet Harman, shadow chief secretary. Mo Mowlam, the citizen's charter spokesman, and Chris Smith, the environmental protection spokesman, can be put in the integrationist category but they do not necessarily accept that all is good in the Maastricht treaty. Tom Clarke, the shadow Scottish secretary, is thought to stand there as well.

The keenest of all is probably Ann Cwyd, the shadow Welsh secretary, whose experience as a member of the European Parliament convert-

ed her from a serious doubter into an enthusiast who now argues for greater powers for Strasbourg.

There is a second group which can be termed the "converts", people who in the past were doubtful about the European Community but now accept it with varying degrees of enthusiasm. Into this camp can be placed Margaret Beckett, the deputy leader, Jack Straw, the shadow employment secretary, Frank Dobson, the shadow employment secretary, David Clark, the shadow defence secretary, and Robin Cook, the shadow industry secretary.

Then come the Euro-sceptics. Bryan Gould is the most uncompromising and remains the most likely casualty of a confrontation between the leadership and the rebels. He has long been associated with opposition to the old Common Market and through the summer he has been calling on Labour to vote against Maastricht.

Also firmly in the anti-Maastricht camp are John Prescott, the shadow transport secretary, Michael Meacher, shadow overseas development spokesman, and David Blunkett, shadow health secretary. Mr Meacher, like Mr Gould, believes in a Maastricht referendum.

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Cwyd: supports more power for Strasbourg

National Westminster Bank Interest Rates

National Westminster Bank announces the following interest rates, effective from 23 September 1992:

| Savings | | | |
|------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------|
| Net Interest per annum | | Gross Interest per annum | Gross C.A.R.† |
| N/A | Tessa Reserve Tax Free Savings No Minimum Balance | 8.75% | 9.04% |
| 3.56% | Special Reserve Instant Access | 4.75% | 4.84% |
| 3.58% | \$25,000 and above | 4.50% | 4.58% |
| 3.19% | \$2,000 - \$9,999 | 4.25% | 4.32% |
| 3.00% | \$500 - \$1,999 | 4.00% | 4.06% |
| 1.50% | World Savers (for Children)‡ | 2.00% | 2.01% |
| 3.47% | Investment Account‡ | 4.625% | 4.68% |
| 3.38% | 6 Months' Notice‡ | 4.50% | 4.55% |
| 3.38% | Monthly Income Account‡§ | 4.50% | 4.59% |

* Where appropriate, Basic Rate Tax will be deducted from interest credited or paid (which may be reclaimed by resident non-taxpayers). Subject to the required registration form, interest will be paid gross.

† Gross Compounded Annual Rate (C.A.R.) is the true annual return on your savings if the interest payments are retained in the account.

‡ Existing Account Holders only.

§ Monthly Income Account effective from 1 October 1992.

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Kohl and Mitterrand work to sweeten a treaty gone sour

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

HELMUT Kohl, the German chancellor, visited the Elysee Palace yesterday to consult President Mitterrand of France on ways of making the Maastricht treaty more palatable to the people and the British in particular, as observers spoke of a twin-track Europe developing.

"Expect a calming signal," said a presidential official as the two men, pillars of the European Community for the past decade, spent two hours inspecting the debris from last week's monetary earthquake and the reluctant "yes" of the French referendum. Herr Kohl made no comment as he left, but officials predicted an initiative in the coming days. Officially, the pair are trying to find ways of making the Community more democratic and to answer anxieties about sovereignty which have erupted in France and have long fuelled British scepticism. They were also trying to work out a way of extending a warmer welcome to those seeking to join the EC. It was a matter of "correcting" and absolutely not of renegotiating the treaty, officials said. Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, an advocate of rapid ratification, said renegotiation would open a Pandora's box.

French officials said the two leaders were keen to help John Major in his efforts to sell the Maastricht treaty to his people. However there were

indications that France and Germany are determined to force the pace on ratification, even if it means ultimately allowing Britain to drift into a second tier over applying the economic discipline to bring currencies into line. Financial experts across the Community were yesterday sketching scenarios for an inner core consisting of France, Germany and the Benelux trio — and an

outer, slower speed group that would include Britain.

Bonn announced that parliament would start examining the treaty on October 8, a week ahead of the emergency EC summit in Britain that Mr Major has called. Herr Kohl and M. Mitterrand are said to be worried that with the direction of the Community in doubt, Mr Major, as current president, could take the EC towards the British vision of Europe. This, as the French see it, amounts to a vast free-trade zone untrammelled by the federal-style political links with which France and Germany want to bind the EC.

Facing mounting domestic hostility to the idea of abandoning the mark, Herr Kohl was said to be considering a change in the Maastricht timetable, putting off the date for a single currency until the next century. Björn Engholm, the leader of Germany's oppo-

sition Social Democrats has suggested that the clause imposing transition to a common currency should be removed.

Changing the timetable for a single currency could also answer French fears of submission to a German-dominated central bank. France and Germany remain deeply committed to the European monetary system as the way to ensure economic stability. If Britain and other countries prefer to apply other criteria and stay outside, then so be it, said one French official.

Yesterday the Bank of France had to intervene on foreign exchange markets for the fourth successive day to defend the franc. The priority, the French and Germans say, remains adjusting the Maastricht treaty as it exists in order to save it. This means giving clearer definition to the vague sections outlining the competence of the various supra-national bodies. Elisabeth Guigou, France's minister of European affairs, said yesterday the Community "must be less technocratic and more democratic and take better account of the daily concerns about social problems, unemployment, the environment and health".

Danish warning, page 1
Simon Jenkins and diary, page 12
Leading article and letters, page 13
Pound steady, page 17



Out for tender: Nicky Morosoli, a coin expert at Spink Modern Collections Ltd in London with a selection of coins in the Uncirculated Ecu category

Public backs away from Bonn's vision of closer union

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THE German government promised yesterday to ratify an unaltered Maastricht treaty by the end of the year, despite clear signs that public opinion here is swinging rapidly against the idea of European union. Even pro-government newspapers such as *Die Welt* are now calling for fresh negotiations, while a Wickert Institute poll yesterday showed 84 per cent want a referendum.

The first opinion poll on European attitudes published since the French referendum, appearing in *Stern* magazine today, shows that scarcely one voter in three would support the Maastricht treaty, while almost three-quarters object to giving up the mark. These findings are in stark contrast to a similar poll by Wickert last weekend, which found that almost two out of three then supported closer European union.

Newspapers and senior politicians from all parties increasingly are backing the British line for slowing down the unification process, particularly on the monetary side, because of the deep and widespread public concern about losing the mark.

The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* felt that the common currency was already lost. Since unification, the paper said, Germany, which had been the leading preacher against extravagance had become a heavy borrower and now, by virtue of its economic dominance, was burdening the rest of Europe with its fiscal sins.

Die Welt saw it as idealism for Bonn to pretend there was still life left in Maastricht. Those countries influenced by the British were far more realistic, the paper said, and it was clear that Britain would not continue the ratification process unless and until a Danish "yes" changed the legal basis of the treaty.

The *General-Anzeiger*, in a feature on John Major, said the prime minister does not command a majority today inside the cabinet, his party or the country. Asking him to save Maastricht now was asking him to square a circle, the paper said.

GERMANY

All this makes bleak reading for Helmut Kohl, who faces an uphill struggle at home to popularise his vision of European union as a cornerstone of peace and prosperity in the world. He aims to do this by attacking what he calls the "bureaucratic moloch" (monster) in Brussels and supporting the concept of a "Europe of the regions". He hopes to prove that the EC is not a centralised institution intent on harmonising national identities and destroying local languages, culture and cuisine.

On Friday Herr Kohl will report to the Bundestag on his visit to Paris yesterday, made in an effort to relaunch the momentum for Europe alongside President Mitterrand. Some commentators, however, already see the trip to Paris as misjudged. Herr Kohl's personal support for the "yes" campaign in France was widely seen there as interference in the domestic affairs of another country and may well have influenced the size of the "no" vote.

The chancellor was also criticised here for appearing on French television to talk about Europe at a time when he was conspicuously absent from German screens to talk about right-wing hooligans. By continuing to devote so much time to European affairs rather than confronting domestic problems, Herr Kohl risks giving the lie to the idea that he is promoting regionalism.

Britain accused of having hidden agenda

Pressure on Major intensifies

THE air in Brussels is thick with vengeful criticism of Britain for failing to help its European Community partners to isolate Denmark.

As Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, arrived in New York to chair a special meeting of the EC foreign ministers, a European Commission official said: "Everyone else agreed to go ahead last June, Britain refused. We have all gone to great lengths to have everyone move at the same speed. But if that speed is zero, then we need a smaller Community."

Diplomats and officials now readily suggest that Britain has a hidden agenda of prevarication over the treaty which is being used to undermine the entire Community system. The rift between Britain, Denmark and the EC majority led by France and Germany has been waiting to open since June and erupted in New York on Monday. The foreign ministers' communiqué was designed to embarrass Britain by making explicit reference to the treaty's article "R" which foresees, but does not compel, ratification by year's end.

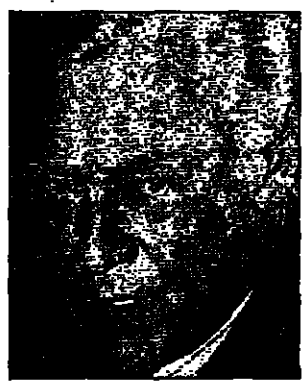
But in the wake of the French referendum and the ERM disaster, ministers are edging closer towards urging substantial changes to the treaty. As the majority set the EC's face against "reopening the present text", Mr Major called for a rethink. Mr Hurd played subtle word games with hints about rewriting Maastricht, and Tristram

Divisions between Britain, Denmark and other EC members over ratification are widening, writes George Brock from Brussels

Garel-Jones, his lieutenant, made clear that the Maastricht bill was not likely to return to the Commons before the new year at the earliest.

Pouring fuel on the fire, Poul Schlüter, the Danish prime minister, yesterday confirmed that he would not call another Maastricht referendum until general changes had been inserted into the treaty. The EC's pro-Maastricht majority is confident that Denmark can be bypassed, blackmailed or bludgeoned into submission if it tries to stand alone against the treaty coming into force, although nobody has yet explained how this conjuring trick would work. Britain is the target of so much bitterness largely because two states could truly delay or block Maastricht beyond rescue.

Relations between the British and German governments went sour before the tensions between London and the Bundesbank broke the surface ten days ago. German sources say that Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, who delivered vital last-minute help to Mr Major at the Maastricht summit, was appalled by a



Schlüter demanding change before new vote

speech delivered by the prime minister in London on September 7. Although the speech backed Maastricht and ruled out a British referendum, its tone was agnostic. Worse, Mr Major singled out for praise the parts of the treaty which stand outside the EC Commission and the European Court of Justice.

Liberated a little by the trauma of the ERM crisis, the prime minister developed the point in television interviews at the weekend. The treaty, he said, "provides for the development of European policies

outside the Treaty of Rome.

We have sought that, as British policy, for years. The Maastricht treaty... enables us to have greater co-ordination, a greater relationship with our European partners without the paraphernalia and difficulties of going right through the European Commission itself. As one German observer remarked: "Your prime minister apparently believes that the way forward for the EC is outside the EC."

Mr Major is talking heresy against the official orthodoxy of German political life that ever-closer European union is a desirable end and that an EC with supra-national powers is the way to achieve it. Herr Kohl is flexibly pragmatic on the details and pace of integration but determined to demonstrate that Germany will submerge itself in a European federal system. He may have shown an avuncular sympathy towards Mr Major at Maastricht, but he cannot be seen to stand too close to a British prime minister suspected of outright sabotage.

Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, meanwhile, has signalled that he will defend the Commission's ground on subsidiarity by appointing Francois Lamoureux as "Mr Subsidiarity". M. Lamoureux, on the Commission's legal staff and close to M. Delors, was the author of his most ambitious but largely unsuccessful power bids in last year's Maastricht negotiations.

Britain needs to find middle way

BY MICHAEL BINYON AND DAVID WATTS

BRITISH preparations for the special European Community summit on October 16 will focus on how best to allay the fears of Danish voters about the Maastricht treaty.

In the run-up to the meeting British diplomats will need to find a middle way between starkly contradictory stances: the first that there can be no renegotiation of the treaty; and the second that the door must be left open for the Danes. Poul Schlüter, the

Danish prime minister, will meet John Major in London on September 30, and British officials are taking comfort from Mr Schlüter's indication that he is seeking to

modify and supplement the treaty rather than revamp it wholesale.

The two men will find they have a lot in common. The

Danes are seeking many things that would go a long way to meet British concerns about the treaty as it now stands, such as more openness and democracy in the Community decision-making process.

Britain expects that all EC leaders will recognise the need to make Maastricht more acceptable to public opinion. Whitehall officials said the real battle now would be to win acceptance in Britain.

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One Airline Can Make A Difference

Cautious welcome for mortgage cut

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

BUILDING societies and housing market analysts were cautiously welcoming the 1 per cent base rate cut and subsequent 0.75 per cent mortgage rate cut last night as a possible turning point in

has been set to recover since the end of 1991. It has been held back by lack of confidence. People do not want to buy and find out six months later that their investment has disappeared and they are trapped into a property. They are also worried that they are going to lose their jobs and

do not want to take on larger borrowings. Before there can be a recovery large numbers of repossessed, newly-built and inherited properties have to be sold, said Mr Wriglesworth. These are overhanging the market and depressing prices. There are

also up to 1.5 million people whose homes are worth less than their mortgages. They are effectively unable to move even if their income has increased and they are not behind with payments. Adrian Coles, chief economist at the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said the base rate cut was not enough to stimulate the housing market without any further government action. But he added that the longer the recession in the housing market continued, there would be increasing numbers of people who had put off buying a property who would eventually decide that they could put it off no longer. "They will decide they cannot live with their parents forever put off having a family any longer."

Neville Simms, chief executive of Tarmac, Britain's biggest housebuilder, said more action was required to revive the construction and housebuilding industry.

PAYMENTS AFTER 1% RATE CUT

| LOAN SIZE £k | OLD PAYMENT £ | NEW PAYMENT £ | DIFFERENCE £ |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 20,000 | 156.46 | 149.03 | 7.44 |
| 30,000 | 234.70 | 223.54 | 11.16 |
| 40,000 | 309.28 | 293.63 | 15.65 |
| 50,000 | 377.07 | 356.08 | 20.99 |
| 60,000 | 438.58 | 408.65 | 26.94 |
| 70,000 | 494.80 | 458.80 | 32.21 |
| 80,000 | 546.55 | 504.55 | 37.48 |
| 90,000 | 594.25 | 542.50 | 42.75 |
| 100,000 | 638.42 | 587.19 | 47.74 |
| 110,000 | 679.60 | 629.66 | 52.94 |
| 120,000 | 717.40 | 668.88 | 58.52 |
| 130,000 | 752.46 | 705.36 | 64.10 |
| 140,000 | 785.44 | 739.80 | 69.64 |
| 150,000 | 816.95 | 771.90 | 75.05 |

Source: Abbey National

Base rate cut, page 1



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On summing up its August review on company cars, What Car? expressed the Carina E 1.6 XLi's leading edge like this:

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| | Power (bhp) | Max Speed (mph) | 0-60 mph (sec) | Lean Burn Engine | mpg at 56 mph/75 mph/urban | Boot Capacity (cu. ft) | Central locking | Power Steering | Side Impact Bars | 3 year/60,000 mile warranty |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Toyota Carina E 1.6 Xi 4-door | 106 | 118 | 11.2 | Yes | 57.6/42.2/35.3 | 19.2 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Vauxhall Cavalier 1.6i 4-door | 75 | 109 | 14.0 | No | 54.3/41.5/31.7 | 18.7 | No | Yes | No | No |
| Ford Sierra Sapphire 1.6i 4-door | 80 | 104 | 13.1 | No | 44.8/35.3/27.7 | 14.6 | No | No | No | No |
| Peugeot 405 1.6 Style 4-door | 92 | 110 | 11.6 | No | 50.4/39.8/31.4 | 16.6 | No | No | No | No |
| Nissan Primera 1.6 L 4-door | 90 | 112 | 11.2 | No | 53.3/40.9/31.4 | 16.6 | No | No | No | Yes |

*MODEL ILLUSTRATED CARINA E Xi 4 DOOR £10,695 INC. CAR TAX AND VAT BUT EXCLUSIVE OF DELIVERY CHARGES OF £330.16 (INC. VAT), NUMBER PLATES, ROAD FUND LICENCE. THIS EXCLUDES NORTHERN IRELAND. TELEPHONE 0237 768585 FOR TAX FREE SALES. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS OF OUR 3 YEAR/60,000 MILE WARRANTY. (THE TOYOTA INFORMATION SERVICE IS OPERATED ON BEHALF OF TOYOTA (GB) LTD.)

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Title _____ Initials _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Daytime phone no. _____

Current car _____ Reg letter _____

Intended replacement date: Month _____ Year _____

T (GB 1)

THE NEW CARINA E

THE CAR IN FRONT IS A  TOYOTA

No 10 and Tory chiefs insist that the party will not pass judgment on heritage secretary

Major renews backing for Mellor amid job rumours

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Downing Street yesterday brushed aside suggestions that David Mellor was about to resign after the libel action featuring evidence that he had accepted a family holiday ended inconclusively.

The prime minister's continuing support for the national heritage secretary was underlined amid a new wave of reports suggesting that he would be forced to stand down.

As friends of Mr Mellor voiced some relief at the outcome of the Mona Bauwens libel trial, which ended in a hung jury, there

chauffeur-driven car into the building. He was asked by reporters: "Are you going to resign?" He replied with a smile: "Definitely not." The lunch, described as a private function, was to celebrate the council's Year of Dance, of which the princess is patron.

It is clear that several influential Tory MPs have privately expressed the view that Mr Mellor should stand down before the party conference. They say that, with the government under pressure on the economy, Mr Mellor's departure would at least remove one source of embarrassment at the conference. But it was denied that an assessment by the Conservative whips suggested that this was the opinion of most Tory MPs.

Senior cabinet ministers spoke of a vendetta in the tabloid press against Mr Mellor. Conservative central office denied a report that Sir Norman Fowler, the party chairman, thought he should go. It was said that Sir Norman's conclusion remained that there was no pressure from the party for Mr Mellor to step down.

Bryan Gould, the shadow national heritage secretary, questioned Mr Major about the evidence during the trial that Mr Mellor had accepted "gifts of substantial value" while a minister. Mr Gould said the gifts "were apparently made in the context of a relationship which might give rise to some concern about influence that might have been brought to bear".

He said that the rules of ministerial conduct required that gifts of that sort should be reported to the prime minister for his approval. Mr Gould asked Mr Major in a letter whether such a report had been made to him and what he proposed to do about it.

Downing Street said that Mr Major accepted Mr Mellor's judgment that he was not under an obligation to report the gift because he did not believe that he was compromised by it.

MINISTER'S FUTURE

was also concern that the possibility of a second hearing would leave doubts about him for months. Downing Street said that John Major backed Mr Mellor's judgment that he was not obliged to report the gift of a holiday.

Mr Mellor denied that he would resign. He made his declaration as he arrived for lunch with the Princess of Wales and 13 other guests at the headquarters of the Arts Council in London.

As he hurried from his



Mellor: "Definitely not" resigning



Leaving party: Judith Mellor and friends emerging from the High Court after the judge dismissed the libel case jury yesterday

Court room junkies flock to see the invisible man

By Tim Jones

A STRANGER stumbling into court 11 might reasonably have expected to see David Mellor in the witness box. He was the man who ensured that there was standing room only, even though he never appeared.

His name and the unspoken and totally unproven whiff of sexual impropriety with the daughter of a senior PLO member — the judge called it "hanky panky" — had been enough to ensure a dedicated band of professional court room junkies had travelled the length of the land to book their seats.

At least one of those in the public seats has been to such grand occasions so often that Lord Lane, the former Lord Chief Justice, said on retirement that he had used his facial expressions as a barometer of how a case was going.

For that man and the others who share his hobby, there

was more than just the exotic mix of an already troubled minister having a long family holiday paid for by the daughter of a man whose organisation had sided with the enemy during the Gulf war. There was more to the case for them than a minister visiting a lady in her London flat for

THE CASE

tea and a chat. They were also attracted by a clash of the legal titans, George Carman, QC, for the defence and Richard Hartley, QC, for the plaintiff. He said freedom of the press to fair comment would be risked if the jury found against his client.

Mr Hartley said the article was a piece of little tartle which did not for a second warrant his client being harmed because of the alleged sins of her father.

court appeared to border on mutual contempt. They bickered and argued and fell out petulantly over minor details.

After accusing Mr Carman of giving his client a verbal mugging, Mr Hartley proceeded to accuse his adversary of being cruel, cowardly and behaving like a stand-up comic in a music hall. Enough to test any friendship.

Mr Carman argued that the story lay within the interest of the public, who had the right to know a government minister was behaving like an ostrich with his head in the sand "exposing his thinking parts". He said freedom of the press to fair comment would be risked if the jury found against his client.

Mr Hartley said the article was a piece of little tartle which did not for a second warrant his client being harmed because of the alleged sins of her father.

Trusted financier shows softer image

By Michael Theodorou in NICOSIA AND ALFRED HERMIDA IN TUNIS

LIKE several of the most successful of his generation of dispossessed Palestinians, Jaweed al-Ghusein, the father of Mona Bauwens, is a self-made millionaire who studied in Cairo, established a booming business in the Gulf, and then put his expertise to work for the national cause.

Mr al-Ghusein, 62, was elected chairman of the Palestine National Fund in 1984, effectively making him its finance minister.

He is among the few people that Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), entrusts with the organisation's finances. Mr al-Ghusein is one of the three signatories needed to withdraw money from PLO bank accounts and is responsible for investments valued at \$2 billion to \$6 billion.

Although a long-standing

PLO LINK

friend of Mr Arafat, Mr al-Ghusein is an independent within the organisation and widely respected by all its bickering factions as a man of integrity and as a philanthropist. His nephew is a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks in Washington.

Mr al-Ghusein first met Mr Arafat in 1952 when they were fellow students in Cairo. "We were very good friends," Mr al-Ghusein told *The Times* in an interview yesterday. He studied economics while Mr Arafat, a year older, took an engineering degree.

Today they cut very different figures. While the stubby PLO leader in his combat fatigues cultivates the image of a fighter, Mr al-Ghusein, who is always immaculately dressed in a business suit, projects a side of the organisation less known in the West.

Relentless terrier with a silken tongue

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

SUDDENLY, George Carman, QC, is the barrister every client has to hire. On the crest of a series of high-profile cases he has shot to the top of the public's league table of leading lawyers. But what is the view of Mr Carman's professional colleagues?

Richard Hartley, QC, left no doubt this week as to what he thought of his rival's performance. In the closing speeches

CARMAN, QC

of the Mona Bauwens libel action against *The People*, he accused Mr Carman, a "past master of the wink wink, nudge nudge" style of indulging in "classic smear tactics". He said Mr Carman had behaved like a stand-up comic or the ringmaster of a music hall act. He had subjected his client to a "verbal mugging" in an attack that was both "cruel and cowardly".

His view struck a chord with one or two other lawyers who have been on the receiving end of Mr Carman's silver-tongued advocacy.

"He is a very good, effective lawyer," one solicitor said. "Maybe because of his diminutive stature [Mr Carman is 5ft 3in tall] he uses his outstanding ability with language to make up for it and put the boot in."

Another QC who has faced Mr Carman in court said: "He is relentless, terrier-like, he gets the hold of someone's trousers or skirt and doesn't let go."

Anne Rafferty, QC, acknowledged his ability, saying: "He is very much the old school: calm, dignified, very smooth, very powerful, quick as a flash. He can always make the witness look like the aggressor or a rude bully."

Peter Carter-Ruck, the leading libel solicitor, said: "He is first choice in any criminal case. He is prepared to sail very close to the wind of what is acceptable and in cross-examination can get pretty near being offensive."

Charles Gray, QC, said: "He is first and foremost a jury advocate. His strength is to put things to a jury in a way they can understand."

Doctors secretly flew out to operate on Saddam deputy

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

A PRIVATE British medical team flew secretly to Jordan late last month to operate on President Saddam Hussein's deputy chairman of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council.

The secret mission coincided with a Whitehall pledge that Iraq would never return to the international community while two Britons remained subject to "grotesque" prison sentences for illegally crossing the border.

Michael Wainwright, a long distance cyclist, was jailed for ten years and Paul Ride, a catering manager, for seven years. Both sentences, approved at the top level of the

Iraqi regime, were considered to be politically motivated.

An official at the British embassy in Amman said: "The participation of a British team was not something about which we were ever notified, let alone approved. In the context of United Nations sanctions, a privately arranged and performed operation like this is a grey area legally."

The Jordanian government has not publicised the hernia operation performed on Mr Ibrahim during the last weekend in August. The Iraqi embassy in Jordan denies he was in the country.

A Jordanian doctor said the British team of a surgeon,

anaesthetist and nurse was flown out to Amman and performed the operation at the Queen Alia military hospital. The identities of the medical team have not been revealed. The patient was registered under a false name.

After nearly two weeks recuperating at the official guest palace in Amman, Mr Ibrahim, 54, returned by road to Baghdad last Wednesday. He was widely reviled in the West as the official who gave a much photographed public embrace to Crown Prince Saad al-Sabah of Kuwait at talks in Saudi Arabia less than 24 hours before Iraqi forces invaded in August, 1990.

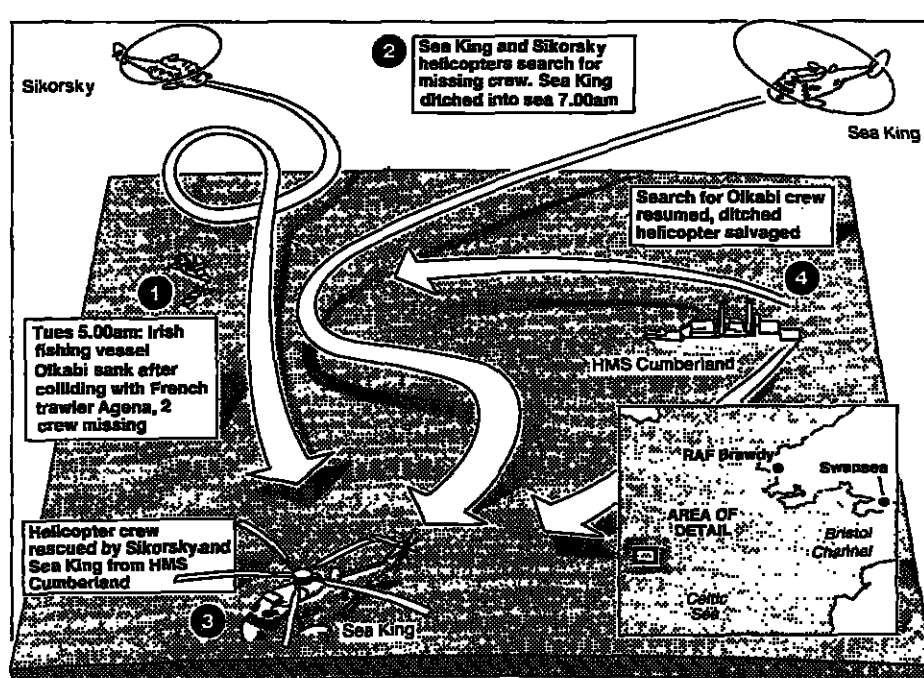
Mr Ibrahim was named as deputy commander-in-chief of the Iraqi armed forces after last year's Gulf war defeat, but because of his indifferent health he is not seen as a potential successor to Saddam.

"The operation on Mr Ibrahim was arranged directly between Baghdad and contacts in Britain. As far as we know, the British team only knew when they left that they would be operating on a top Iraqi official. It was not until they arrived here that they found out who he was," the Jordanian doctor added.

He said that the British team had had contacts with the Iraqi regime dating from "the good old days" before the invasion of Kuwait when London was the favourite venue for top Iraqis seeking medical treatment.

An Amman-based diplomat said: "It is part of Saddam's overall scheme to maintain loyalty to see that his cronies are all right whatever the cost and problems. I would not have expected British doctors to be co-operating so readily at this time."

Iraq has frequently complained of severe shortages of medical supplies since sanctions were imposed. Foreign currency shortages have made it difficult for Baghdad to buy enough medicines or to update surgical equipment.



Fishermen lost as Irish boat collides with French trawler

By Bill Frost

TWO Irish fishermen were feared drowned last night after their vessel collided with a French trawler in the Bristol Channel 70 miles west of Lundy. An RAF helicopter involved in the search was later forced to ditch in heavy seas, but the crew escaped unhurt.

The fishing boat *Orchadee* sank after a collision with the French trawler *Agema*. The lost men were named last night as James Power, 28, the skipper, and Robert Doran, 19, both from Dunmore East, co. Waterford. A third crewman, Ken Pearce, 23, from co. Wexford, was flown to hospital by an Irish Navy rescue helicopter.

Mr Pearce said he was on watch in the wheelhouse when the two boats collided early yesterday morning. His two crewmates were below in their bunks and came on deck when they were woken by the impact.

He tried to unfasten a life raft but the skipper told him to put on a lifejacket instead. "Then Jimmy and Bobby went below again to get their lifejackets as I went over the

side. I think they made it to the deck again and went over too, but I never saw them again," he said.

The weather deteriorated yesterday afternoon and an air and sea search was scaled down as dusk fell. A coast-guard spokesman said the fishermen's chances of survival were very slim.

The four-man crew of the RAF Sea King helicopter, who had scrambled to take part in the search early yesterday, were rescued after the pilot detected smoke and decided to ditch close to HMS *Cumberland*, 65 miles south of Milford Haven.

Two men were winched to safety by an Irish helicopter while the others were taken aboard the warship.

Capt Derek Anthony of the *Cumberland* said: "We understand there was a problem with the gearbox of the Sea King and a smell of burning. Two crew jumped out on the orders of the pilot and it ditched shortly afterwards." The crew had breakfast on the ship and were then flown ashore for medical checks. A salvage operation was

launched during the afternoon. A Chinook helicopter was used to lift the ditched aircraft to Pembroke Dock for transfer to RAF Brawdy in Dyfed.

Sqn Ldr Jerry English, in charge of RAF Brawdy helicopters, said the aircraft ditched several hours after it had become involved in the search. The four crewmen were in the water for only about five or ten minutes, and none was hurt, he said.

At Brawdy, the Sea King's crew said 12ft waves had battered the helicopter as they escaped through a hatch into liferafts. They described sea and weather conditions at the time as "pretty appalling".

Three rescue helicopters were involved in the search as well as the *Cumberland*, two Irish naval vessels and a lifeboat from Rosslare, co. Wexford.

A Royal Navy survey ship, HMS *Roebuck*, was brought in to scan the seabed for wreckage. By late afternoon the search area had been narrowed to 40 square miles and wreckage from the *Orchadee* was found.

Universities usher in era of competition

UNIVERSITY vice-chancellors will usher in a new era at their annual meeting in Exeter today (John O'Leary writes).

The bureaucratic change, which involves welcoming into membership erstwhile rivals from the polytechnics, is symptomatic of a more fundamental shift. The vice-chancellors will be grappling with creating a different type of higher education system.

Old certainties conferred by the university title will no longer hold good. The traditional universities, meeting for the last time, will have to compete in the pecking order as well as for scarce funding. As one hierarchy disappears

with the promotion of polytechnics, another is emerging. A more selective distribution of research funds will leave most universities reliant on the number of students they teach.

Graeme Davies, chief executive of the new funding council covering all English universities, can expect a tough time from those of his former colleagues who do not relish the prospect of running institutions gradually stripped of much of their research capability. For most vice-chancellors, the meeting will be about adapting by squeezing in more students while preserving standards.

Leading article, page 13

With effect from the close of business on Tuesday 22nd September 1992 and until further notice, TSB Base Rate is decreased from 10.0% p.a. to 9.0% p.a.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to TSB Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

TSB

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Lloyds Bank Base Rate.

Lloyds Bank Plc has reduced its Base Rate from 10.0 per cent to 9.0 per cent p.a. with effect from the close of business on Tuesday 22 September 1992.

The change in Base Rate will also be applied from the same date by Lloyds Private Banking Limited.

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Cancer patients seek compensation for radiotherapy error

By CRAIG SETON

SOLICITORS are seeking compensation worth millions of pounds for surviving cancer patients and the relatives of others who have died since receiving inadequate radiotherapy treatment at the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary in Stoke-on-Trent.

Yesterday five solicitors representing 50 people, about half of whom thought to be demanding damages, said they

were preparing to launch a High Court action to force the North Staffordshire district health authority to accept legal liability for giving underdoses of radiotherapy.

The authority said yesterday that it was not yet certain that there was legal liability for the mistake and it would await the outcome of a clinical enquiry that had started.

Of the 989 people affected

by the mistake over nearly ten years, 598 have died. Claims for damages will be for loss of earnings, pain and suffering and the cost of additional care.

Daniel Simons, one of the solicitors, said yesterday that they were dissatisfied with the report's conclusion that an "error of professional judgment" was responsible for the miscalculation and said that he believed there had been negligence.

The solicitors said that they had access to patient records and notes and that it would not be difficult to discover the extent of inadequate treatment, although it would be more difficult to establish the effects.

□ A father of three whose wife received radiotherapy treatment at the hospital and later died spoke yesterday of his bitterness. Paul Murslow, 47, of Blythe Bridge, Staffordshire, who is claiming compensation, lost his wife Christine, a 42-year-old teacher, in July. Her death came almost three years after she was diagnosed as having cancer of the anus.

He said that his wife had had major surgery to remove the tumour and underwent radiotherapy to kill remaining cancer cells. She had 22 radiotherapy sessions, which later were found to have been 25 per cent below the prescribed dosage.

Medical physicist given her job back

THE medical physicist whose error led to 1,000 cancer patients receiving the wrong radiation dose is to return to her job on Monday as head of the radiotherapy physics department at North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary (Jeremy Laurence writes).

Margaret Grievson was named by an independent enquiry yesterday as the person responsible for the mistake which resulted in the patients receiving up to 30 per cent less radiation than intended.

But the enquiry report also blamed poor management and lack of clear lines of accountability. It said that Ms Grievson, moved to another department after the error was

discovered, was not negligent. Medical physicists are responsible for controlling the doses of radiation delivered by x-ray machines. The case is the third of its kind in recent years. The error happened when a "correction factor" which adjusts the dose according to the distance of the radiation source from the skin was unnecessarily calculated for each patient.

Neither the radiographers nor Ms Grievson realised that computer-controlled equipment installed in 1982 was programmed with the correction factor, so that a double correction was made. The fault was discovered in 1991 when a new x-ray machine was installed.



All's well: John Storey, the toddler who swallowed carboxylic acid at a doctors' surgery, is welcomed back home by his mother Christine after spending two weeks in hospital. John, 2, drank the acid while his mother was having an injection at the surgery in York. Intensive care doctors said he had little chance of recovery. "I can't believe he's here," said Mrs Storey, 21, at her home in Bell Farm, York, yesterday. Dr Bernard Bromley, a senior partner at the surgery in Monkgate, is to be prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive.

Clarke tells police to weed out bad officers

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE commanders must deal with incompetent or lazy officers who put colleagues and the public at risk, Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, yesterday told a national conference of senior officers.

Failed officers would have to go, he said, telling delegates to the meeting of the Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales, in Blackpool, that they had a responsibility constantly to monitor and improve the work of their staff. An annual performance appraisal was not sufficient and weaknesses had to be caught early.

Mr Clarke said proposals were on the way from the police on dealing with inefficient officers. But he acknowledged there was a reluctance to act because of the risk a colleague would be sacked.

"It is quite simply not fair, either to other police officers or to the public they serve, to put them at risk by failing to deal with poor performance," he said. "It would be 'over the top' simply to get rid of them. Their difficulties had to be tackled."

But it had to be accepted that there would be people who could never reach the required standard. After careful assessment, bad police officers would have to go.

Mr Clarke said plans to deal with inefficient officers were part of several changes. The Home Office was considering the way the police were funded by central government, assessing the future of the current police authorities system and discussing whether some forces should merge.

Mr Clarke ruled out a national police force or national detective unit. He said 90 per cent of police funding came from central government, either directly or indirectly, but the distribution of funds was decided locally.

It was curious that the Home Office could decide manpower levels for individual forces. The Home Office was considering proposals which could include a straight amount of money each year and leave forces to decide how to spend it, he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Atlantic ban imposed on nuclear dumping

Britain will be unable to dump nuclear waste in the north Atlantic for 15 years after a flurry of last minute diplomatic haggling forged an agreement on a 14-nation marine dumping treaty in Paris yesterday. Environment ministers of Britain, France, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, the Irish Republic, Spain, Denmark, Portugal, The Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium had met to update the 20-year-old Paris and Oslo conventions.

Ministers had agreed to ban most forms of sea dumping but Britain, backed by France, refused to ban dumping radioactive waste, including parts of aged atomic submarines, at sea. All sides agreed to an unconditional ban on dumping nuclear waste for all signatories except Britain and France, which accepted a 15-year moratorium. David Maclean, the environment minister, said Britain had no intention of dumping nuclear waste but wanted the exemption in case it became necessary to dispose of bulky objects such as unwanted submarines.

Crofters' bid fails

Crofters in the Assynt area of northwest Scotland last night failed in their attempt to become the first crofting community to buy a Scottish estate. The agents for the 21,000-acre North Lochaber estate, put up for sale for £473,000 earlier this year after its Scandinavian owners went into liquidation, said that no offers had been acceptable. More than a hundred crofters, hoping to rid themselves of absentee landlords and run the estate for the good of the community, offered about £200,000.

Serial killing suspected

Australian police say that the murders of the two 22-year-old British women backpackers might be linked with the deaths of other young travellers in recent years and that a serial killer could be responsible. Formal identification of the body found in a shallow grave in the Australian bush, believed to be that of missing tourist Caroline Clarke, will be made today when dental records arrive from Britain. The other body found on Saturday has been identified as that of Joanne Walters, Miss Clarke's travelling companion.

Cities 'must aid arts'

Lord Gowrie, right, former arts minister, has urged British cities to match their European counterparts in supporting the arts. He said at the European Partnership Initiative for the Arts launch: "The business community has kept faith with the principles of sponsorship. It is important the public authorities sustain their side of the bargain."



Radiation link disputed

A Canadian study has failed to confirm British findings that exposure to radiation among men leads to an increased risk of leukaemia in their children. The study could be cited as evidence in a civil damages suit later this year brought by families seeking damages from British Nuclear Fuels. A team from the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation found no such association, contrary to findings by Dr Martin Gardner of the Environmental Epidemiology Unit at Southampton University.

TES award launched

The Times Educational Supplement (TES) Environment Award was launched this week at the Science Museum. It challenges children and students to use their science and technology knowledge in co-operation with local businesses to improve the environment. The TES Environment award invites groups or individuals to identify needs that can be addressed through science and technology project work. A national exhibition of completed works will be held in London next year.

Interest Rates effective from 23rd September 1992

| DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS | gross interest rate p.a. | gross compounded annual rate |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Three Month Reserve Account | | |
| £50,000 + | 8.375% | 8.64% |
| £25,000-£49,999 | 8.125% | 8.38% |
| £10,000-£24,999 | 7.75% | 7.98% |
| Reserve Account for Personal Customers | | |
| £50,000 + | 6.875% | 7.09% |
| £20,000-£49,999 | 6.375% | 6.53% |
| £5,000-£19,999 | 5.875% | 6.01% |
| Reserve Account for Businesses/Charities/Societies | | |
| £100,000-£1 million | 6.5% | 6.66% |
| £25,000-£99,999 | 6.25% | 6.40% |
| £10,000-£24,999 | 5.625% | 5.75% |
| 7 Day Notice Deposit Account (with effect 12 October 1992) | 1.0% | 1.0% |
| TESSA | 8.5% | 8.77% |
| Charity TESSA | 7.625% | 7.846% |

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THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE PROTECTION OF HORSES



The ILPH is working.

Europe's playground in the Alps suffers torment by tourism

THE backbone of Europe is being worn away under the skirts of 50 million tourists a year.

Delegates to an "eco-tourism" meeting in London today will hear pleas for a ban on further tourist development in much of the Alps to save the mountains from environmental ruin.

Leading the fight to save the Alps is Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, chairman of Alp Action, who will tell the conference that "death by tourism and over-development is one of the threats hanging over the Alps". He will urge individual EC countries to ratify a proposed Alpine Convention. Experts claim that 41,000 ski lifts capable of transporting 1.5 million people an hour now criss-cross the slopes. At least half the trees in Switzerland are dying from pollution from cars or acid rain. Whole forests, which provide protection from avalanches, have been cleared to make way for pistes. Artificial snow from some 5,000 snow cannons are smothering the delicate alpine flowers and grasses.

There are 405,000 kilometres of roads running through the Alps, which carry

Ski prank ends in driving ban

By KERRY GILL

A SCOTTISH teenager has been found guilty of a driving offence... on skis. A sheriff court imposed a six-month driving ban after police saw him being towed by a friend's car at up to 25mph.

The case against Desmond Cheyne, 18, had been postponed twice because of uncertainty on whether the charge constituted a careless driving offence. Alexander Colley, the procurator fiscal, told Banff Sheriff Court, Grampian, that the police had considered that the conditions on a bypass early on a March morning were treacherous after a sudden snowstorm.

The driver, Steven Neish, 21, of Banff, pleaded guilty to careless driving and Cheyne admitted aiding and abetting him. James McNaughton, for the men, said that the road was empty and there was no danger to other people. "With hindsight, both accused very much regret that they embarked on this foolish escapade," he said. "This is probably the first time a case like this has been prosecuted in Scotland."

Sheriff McLellan said that the prank could have been disconcerting for other drivers. He imposed three penalty points which, under the totting up procedure, led to Cheyne being disqualified for six months.

Afterwards, Cheyne, who works in a garage, said: "There had hardly been any snow all winter, so I had never used the skis. Then there was this sudden fall and it was too good to miss, so I got Steve to give me a tow round the town."

Ecologists want a ban on tourist development of the Alps before it is too late, writes Harvey Elliott

20 per cent of all passengers and 15 per cent of goods transported in Western Europe. On the St Gothard Pass alone, heavy lorries and cars deposit 30 tons of nitrogen oxide, 25 tons of hydrocarbons and 75 kilograms of lead into the atmosphere each week.

New threats include roller skiing on grass, mountain biking and four-wheel drive "off-road" racing in summer ski resorts now operational on 36 glaciers. Sewage services and water supplies are becoming overloaded in many resorts and chemicals are leaching into rivers and lakes.

Peter Grabowski, tourism lecturer at Luton College of Higher Education, Bedfordshire, said: "Skiing is changing the fundamental character of the Alps and its people — the landscape, flora and fauna, the quality of the air and water and the quality of life of the population."

"Winter tourism is far more damaging to the environment than summer tourism yet it is increasing. In the end, the attractiveness of a resort wanes. The tourist moves on to find a less crowded, less spoilt place."

Professor David Pitt of the Bellerive Foundation, an independent conservation group,

said there were already signs that some resorts were finding it difficult to fill their beds. "The Alpine Convention is trying to extend controls, but the people who rely on ski resorts for their livelihoods naturally are very wary of governmental interference in their affairs."

"Because the Alps are such a fragile environment, there is a very good argument for treating them as a single unit and making very large parts a protected area."

There is a growing awareness of the complex problems among many Alpine authorities and tour operators, of whom 230 from Britain send 750,000 skiers a year to the Alps. Some towns now impose a limit on the number of tourists allowed in, others ban off-piste skiing, control new developments and insist that ski-lifts are camouflaged.

The Ski Club of Great Britain believes the sport's popularity will continue to increase by about 5 per cent a year. "The ski market is extraordinarily resilient," said the club's David Hearn. "Some resorts created their own problems when they were first built, but now they are taking great care to ensure the environment is protected."

Martin Brackenbury of the Tour Operators' Study Group believes a new sense of environmental awareness is growing. "There are many problems, but it is encouraging that environmental impact assessments are increasing. Overall, I am not pessimistic and hope that we can reach an agreement on how to tackle the problems together."



Snow business: the number of skiers is growing



Toast hostess: Paula Yates at the preview of Channel 4's *The Big Breakfast*

Geldof takes breakfast in bed

ANYONE desperate to know about Khosa circumcision rituals as experienced by Nelson Mandela or the Dalai Lama's attitude to sex can find the answers from next Monday on *The Big Breakfast*, Channel 4's new early show (Melinda Winstock writes).

Such titbits, elicited by Bob Geldof during recorded interviews with "morally ambiguous world figures", are part of a new morning format broadcast from three converted lock-keepers' cottages at Bow, east London.

Geldof, a late riser who admits to recording the inter-

views shown at 8.09am, to avoid an early start, won the £10 million contract to replace *Channel 4 Daily*, which attracted a meagre audience of 150,000. The former Boomtown Rat, knighted in 1986 for his Live Aid work, could be seen wincing on tape as Mr Mandela described his circumcision at the age of 16.

The Big Breakfast revolves around Chris Evans, the former GLR disc jockey, and Geldof's wife Paula Yates, who interviews celebrities live from her "boudoir" during her 20-minute "fashion and passion" slot. *Cue Paula*, Mark Lamsar, a comic from London's Comedy Store, has

been employed to "cause mayhem for unsuspecting citizens" as a doorstepping and traffic-stopping roving reporter. ITN's Peter Smith will deliver tabloid-style headline news every 20 minutes.

"This is zoo TV," said Sebastian Scott, the editor. "The crew will often be in shot, and if something breaks down, well, we'll film it breaking down."

Each week a different family will participate in the show. Other features will be showbusiness gossip, household tips by the famous and loveable couples revealing how they met.

Schools halt fall in total of boarders

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

LEADING independent schools have halted the decline in the number of boarding pupils. Many of the 233 members of the Headmasters' Conference, who are meeting in Bruges, have reported increased enrolment while others said they had achieved their aim of holding numbers steady.

Boarding had been in steady decline for more than a decade, especially in the younger age groups. The 114,294 boarders recorded in 1991 represented a drop of 3,400 on the previous year. To counter this, the schools launched a public relations campaign.

Peter Hobson, the headmaster of Giggleswick School in North Yorkshire and chairman of the conference's boarding committee, said yesterday: "It would be foolish to be bullish in the current economic circumstances, but my own belief is that the decline is being halted and that boarding will find its proper place among families in the late 1990s. It has been hard to convince people that Tom Brown's school days really are dead."

Peter Smith, the headmaster of Bradfield College, Berkshire, said strong competition had forced boarding schools to pay more attention to parents' wishes. They also had to make the effects of bad publicity at a few schools.

Last week's resignation of David Cope, the Master of Marlborough College, in Wiltshire, revived the most recent example of such incidents. He faced criticism when it emerged that a 15-year-old girl, who was expelled after being found in her boy friend's study bedroom, had been prescribed contraceptive pills by the school doctor.

Sir Claus Moser, the warden of Wadham College, Oxford, told the conference that education was partly responsible for Britain being the most divided country in western Europe. He asked independent schools to do more to help other schools than simply offer them the use of sports facilities. Many British schools were in an unacceptable condition, he said.

Seizures of Ecstasy soaring

Young people have been warned that the drug Ecstasy is lethal after seizures of the rave drug increased eightfold. So far at least 14 have died after taking "E", including a man of 18 who died after an all-night party in Wolverhampton at the weekend.

Police and customs officers throughout the UK last year seized 365,000 Ecstasy tablets compared with 44,000 in 1990. The number of successful raids rose from 400 in 1990 to 1,700.

Michael Jack, the Home Office minister, said: "Sadly, there are still those who believe Ecstasy is harmless." The government is stepping up its schools campaign to warn pupils about the dangers.

Girl found

A missing girl last seen yards from the point where teenager Helen Gorrie was strangled in August has been found safe and well by police in London. Alexis Kennedy, 14, of Cowplain, Hampshire, went missing six days ago as she walked to school.

Safety fears

The Health and Safety Executive will investigate complaints that offshore safety is being endangered by the growing use of foreign seamen on British supply vessels. Michael Forsyth, the employment minister, said yesterday.

Record swim

Alison Streeter, 28, of Dover, yesterday completed her twentieth successful swim across the Channel, the greatest number of crossings by a woman, when she braved a thunderstorm to reach Shakespeare Beach, Dover.

Smoker returns

Maggie Atkins, who quit as chairman of Overton Parish Council, near Basingstoke, Hampshire, after she was banned from smoking at meetings, has been reinstated. Meetings will have two short smoking breaks.

The Times

We apologise to readers who received their papers late yesterday. This was due to production difficulties.

Home-buying popular as ever

By DAVID YOUNG

MORE people are buying their own homes, more are living alone and the number of one-parent families is increasing, preliminary results of the General Household Survey have disclosed.

The survey shows that the proportion of owner-occupiers increased from 49 per cent in 1971 to 67 per cent in 1991, and that 12 per cent of home owners had bought a council house they had previously rented.

The average number of people in a British household has fallen over the past 20 years, from 2.91 in 1971, to 2.48 in 1991. The trend reflects an increase in the proportion of people living alone, from 17 per cent in 1971 to 26 per cent in 1991.

The survey has been carried out annually since 1971 by the social survey division of the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys. Researchers interviewed 19,229 people aged 16 or over in 9,955 randomly selected homes. Other findings for 1991 include:

□ An increase in the proportion of one-parent families over the past 20 years, from 8 per cent of families with dependent children in 1971 to 19 per cent in 1991;

□ Compact disc players are owned by 27 per cent of households compared with 15 per cent in 1989, and 55 per cent had microwave ovens compared with 47 per cent in 1989;

□ The percentage of house-

holds burgled in the previous year increased from 2.7 per cent in 1985-6 to 3.5 per cent in 1991;

□ The proportion of women whose youngest child was aged under five and who were in work or seeking work increased from 27 per cent in 1973 to 47 per cent in 1991;

□ Seventy per cent of parents of children aged under five made arrangements for them to be cared for during the day by other people.

□ The main methods of contraception used in 1991 were sterilisation, 25 per cent, the pill, 23 per cent, and the condom, 16 per cent.

□ *General Household Survey: preliminary results for 1991* (OPCS Monitor S5 92-1, £2.50, ISSN 0262 8392)

Teenagers to learn the sitter's art

By JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

TEENAGE babysitters will soon be trained to deal with difficult parents as well as crying babies, thanks to a programme launched by the Red Cross yesterday.

The course, offered to schools, colleges and youth organisations, will teach first aid, accident prevention, how to deal with fire and other emergencies and how to secure fair wages and avoid sexual harassment.

The programme comes after a series of incidents in which childminders have abused their position. In one, a 12-year-old girl was convicted of manslaughter after she smothered her 18-month-old charge to stop him crying.

The Red Cross hopes that the programme will lead to legal certification for babysitters and age restrictions. At the moment, a babysitter can be any age, although parents are legally responsible if the babysitter is aged under 16.

Babysitters will also be taught to stand up for their rights. Through role-play and a series of quizzes, the programme gives tips on how to deal with parents.

Notice to Customers National Savings Changes

SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

National Savings Certificates of the 38th Issue were withdrawn from sale on 22 September 1992.

The terms of the 39th Issue, and introduction date, will be announced shortly.

Until further notice mature Savings Certificates (including Yearly Plan Certificates) can continue to be reinvested into 38th Issue Reinvestment Certificates up to a maximum of £10,000.

Reinvestment applications should be sent direct to National Savings, Durham using form DNS 502 (available at post offices).

5th Index-linked Issue National Savings Certificates remain on sale.

CAPITAL BONDS

Series E Capital Bonds were withdrawn from sale on 22 September 1992.

The terms of Series F, and introduction date, will be announced shortly.

FIRST OPTION BONDS

FIRST Option Bonds were withdrawn from sale on 22 September 1992.

New terms, and introduction date, will be announced shortly.

YEARLY PLAN

The overall return of 7.5% pa on five-year Yearly Plan agreements will no longer apply for applications received after 22 September 1992. A new rate to apply on and from 23 September will be announced shortly.

CHILDREN'S BONUS BONDS

Issue C Children's Bonus Bonds were withdrawn from sale on 22 September 1992.

The terms of Issue D, and introduction date, will be announced shortly.

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

Beginning on 6 October 1992 the rate of interest earned on the Investment Account will go down from 8.25% pa to 7.25% pa.

INCOME BONDS

Beginning on 5 November 1992 the rate of interest payable on Income Bonds will go down from 9.0% pa to 8.0% pa.

(The same change will apply to Deposit Bonds — no longer on sale.)

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Issued by the Department for National Savings on behalf of the Treasury

What could
be great news,
but isn't on
the front page?

Find out next Monday.

THE TIMES

Anyone entering the cellular phone market for the first time would be forgiven for doing so accompanied by a solicitor and an accountant.

Unfortunately, the cellular phone has acquired a wide reputation for high costs, long contracts and hidden extras. What's even more confusing, you'll be hearing a lot of talk about new call charges.

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WHY SHOULDN'T CELLULAR PHONE CHARGES BE THIS CLEAR?

first bill just to check everything's clear. The same goes for the Rabbit cordless phone or Hutchison Pager.

ALWAYS AT HAND

Many companies are only too happy to sell you a phone. But then are nowhere to be seen when you need assistance.

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(We also have a 24-hour Hotline if you need emergency numbers such as electricians, glaziers, plumbers etc.)

If anything goes wrong

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Commander warns Bosnians UN alone cannot save them

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN SARAJEVO

MILITARY conflict over Sarajevo could cost 100,000 more lives, the second in command of the United Nations peace-keeping force said yesterday. Major General Philippe Morillon, the deputy commander of the UN Protection Force, said the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina must not expect enhanced UN operations to save them this winter.

The politicians engaged in talks in Geneva must find a political solution to the conflict, the general said, although he added that he had no illusions about the difficulties that lay ahead. "We are convinced that there is no military solution to this except with 100,000 dead and an

absolute catastrophe for the people of Sarajevo," he said at the UN headquarters.

The general's three-day visit to Sarajevo is part of the preparations for the deployment of an extra 6,000 UN troops in Bosnia including 1,800 British soldiers mainly from the Cheshire Regiment. He said the aim of the operation was to try to break the blockade of four Bosnian towns — Bihać, Jajce, Gorazde and Sarajevo — by creating safe corridors to each along which supplies of humanitarian aid could travel and which would be policed by UN checkpoints. The priority will be to try to reopen rail and road links between Mostar

and Sarajevo by repairing damaged bridges in the Mostar area.

The key to the Sarajevo operation is the Serb-held western suburb of Ilidza through which lorries would have to travel. General Morillon said negotiations had begun with Serb commanders with the aim of placing a checkpoint at the gateway to the city.

The general was unable to give any firm guarantees as to the safety of the troops who will conduct these operations which in every case will directly undermine the Bosnian Serb military advantage around Muslim-held areas. He said he had been to Pale, the Bosnian Serb operational headquarters outside Sarajevo, to discuss the situation, but appeared to have returned with no firm guarantee.

"I tried to convince Pale that it is an absolute vital necessity to lift the siege not only for humanitarian reasons but for psychological reasons, too," the general said he had no illusions about the worth of general agreements reached with Bosnian Serb commanders, because "agreements remain unfortunately theoretical".

Responding to recent criticism of UN operations in Sarajevo, which appeared to be suffering from inadequate morale, poor leadership and communication difficulties between French, Egyptian and Ukrainian soldiers, the general admitted that the recent deaths of two French soldiers and the suspension of aid flights did not help. But he claimed the troops were in good heart. "Our morale is good because we have the conviction that we are the absolutely necessary intermediaries between the two warring parties," he said.

● Zagreb: Croatia's independent press is fighting for survival in the face of a new attempt by President Tudjman's nationalist regime to silence papers which fail to toe the official line.

The weekly *Novi Danas*, a privatised version of *Danas*, closed at the beginning of September. During Croatia's civil war, *Danas* denounced atrocities against Serbs and black-market profiteering. The government realigned with a legal battle over the paper's new name and by putting pressure on printers, distributors and the publisher. (AFP)

British objective, page 1

Sarajevo flights postponed again

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

SARAJEVO's people may have to wait until early next month before the United Nations humanitarian air bridge resumes its flights. The flights were suspended on September 3 after an Italian plane was shot down, but the UN had hoped that after "security assurances" given by all sides in the Bosnian conflict the flights would begin again yesterday.

A spokesman for Sadako Ogata, the head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva, said that only three of the 19 countries that had taken part in the airlift had replied to her invitation to start flying again. But the three, Canada, Germany and Norway, all first wanted special anti-missile devices fitted to their planes, and this could not be achieved before the beginning of October.

The delay in restarting flights is a severe blow to the population of Sarajevo and the UNHCR. While land convoys from the Croatian port of Split have managed to keep supplies coming in, they have only been enough for immediate use. The UNHCR predicts suffering not seen in Europe for half a century and new waves of refugees if stockpiles of food, medicines and other supplies are not laid in for the winter. Except in summer, Sarajevo airport is notorious for its frequent closures because of fog.

Governments have not rushed to contribute their planes and crews to a resumed

airlift because they are sceptical of the security assurances given to UNHCR in Geneva on Saturday by the three parties to the Bosnian war. Their doubts are well founded. One part of the same agreement commits the parties to refrain from attacks on electrical installations, but power to 80 per cent of the Bosnian capital was cut yesterday after Serb forces shelled one of the city's main transformers.

Fighting was also reported in northern Bosnia yesterday, and the hospital in Uzdice in Serbia reported that 15 wounded soldiers had been brought in overnight, casualties of clashes around Visegrad in eastern Bosnia.

Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, the UN and European Community peace envoys, left Geneva for Athens yesterday where they are expected to discuss the Bosnian situation and Greece's continued veto of recognition of Macedonia. Stung by allegations of sanctions-busting, the Greeks blocked all oil shipments to all former Yugoslav republics. This blocking ended yesterday except for supplies to Serbia and Montenegro.

Macedonia was told that it could release 30,000 tonnes of oil held up in the port of Salonika if it applied in the name of "the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia". The Macedonians had earlier announced plans to transport the blocked oil through the Bulgarian port of Burgas.

'Mujahidin' rush to join Islamic fundamentalists in war

FROM GEORGE EYKYN IN TRAVNIK

AS THE air-raid sirens wailed in Travnik, they drove fast ahead of us in their camouflaged Toyota lorry — four Muslim fighters of Middle Eastern appearance whom local people know as the "Mujahidin".

When they saw the camera, two of the men covered their faces and turned their backs. One wore an Arabic keffiyeh. They tried to shoo us away. Armed and in khaki outfits, they were not local Muslims. One eventually spoke to us in Serbo-Croat but with an out-

sider's accent. "Where are you from?" we asked. He laughed: "All that matters is that we're here now." He admitted that he and his colleagues were fighting the Serbs, but moments later said that they were "humanitarian aid workers, here to help the children and provide medicine". The Toyota then left at speed with its camera-shy militiamen still covering their faces.

Croatian troops manning checkpoints in the Travnik area claim that 680 foreign Islamic fighters have passed through, travelling in small groups, posing as journalists. They buy weapons and equip-



ment with dollars when they arrive. We met a man who supplied them. While there is no evidence that Islamic governments are sending forces into Bosnia, the Croats say individuals and small groups

have come from Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

Two of our group went with local Croats to the staunchly Muslim village of Mahuric, six miles away. At the foot of a cliff, in what usually serves as a cattle market, rifle fire shattered the silence. From a safe distance, my colleagues secretly filmed about 30 local Muslims being given weapons training and target practice by foreign instructors. Our guides described them as Islamic fundamentalists.

Just 20 miles away, the town of Zenica is run by Muslims. Here a Bosnian soldier told us he had met 50 foreign Islamic

gunmen from abroad who said they had come to Bosnia "to die".

Military sources directed us to an old people's home in Zenica, where the fighters had been seen. Bosnian army regulars are also quartered there. One spoke to us in German, saying large numbers of foreign Islamic fighters were coming in. He said some had come from Egypt and Sudan. Then, thinking that we did not understand Serbo-Croat, he muttered to his colleagues: "They're asking me where the foreigners come from". George Eykyn is a reporter for BBC Breakfast News.



Backing voice: a pro-Yeltsin supporter shouting anti-communist slogans outside the White House, seat of Russian parliament in Moscow, as delegates arrived for the opening session yesterday. About 400 protesters gathered to make their feelings known

Hurd puts the brakes on proposals to reform UN

Britain sees UN reform as too costly, James Bone writes from New York

BRITAIN, which started the juggernaut of United Nations reform rolling by organising a special summit at the beginning of the year to promote an expansion of the organisation's powers, yesterday firmly applied the brakes.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, told the 179-member general assembly that some of the proposed changes could prove too costly. "Everybody is looking to the United Nations," he said, "but we risk loading the United Nations with too heavy a burden of, in effect, intervention and partial administration. We should not wander down this new road without serious thought."

It was a road, he added, that would involve a restructuring of armed forces so that they could take a full part in the increasing number of UN peacekeeping and peacekeeping exercises, adding: "It would mean a massive increase in the funds which the

United Nations and its humanitarian agencies would require from its member states in regular contributions and aid in times when many member states face severe budgetary problems."

Mr Hurd's cautionary tone was in sharp contrast to the warm endorsement of an increase in UN peacekeeping offered by President Bush in his address to the general assembly on Monday. Mr Bush said Washington was ready to support a greatly expanded UN role by giving peacekeeping training to forces from around the world.

He also promised logistical and intelligence back-up.

Both Mr Hurd and Mr Bush were responding to the reform proposals drawn up by Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, at the request of the special security council summit organised by John Major in January. Among Dr Boutros Ghali's unexpectedly bold proposals was a call for all member states to earmark troops for a UN army and the creation of smaller "peace enforcement units" under UN command.

Mr Hurd emphasised that preventive diplomacy, particularly the deployment of UN monitors in countries where the government had asked for help, could head off conflicts that might otherwise require greater UN involvement. "Preventive diplomacy is quicker, more helpful to people about to be embroiled in conflict, than the most successful peacekeeping or peace-making operation which follows the outbreak of violence," he said. "It is also less costly in terms of lives and cash."

On Monday night Mr Hurd and the foreign ministers of the other permanent security council members — China, France, Russia and the United States — had a meeting with Milan Panic, prime minister of the rump Yugoslavia. With Britain working closely with Russia to exert pressure on Belgrade, the five powers agreed to allow Mr Panic to address the general assembly before Yugoslavia is barred from participating in the body's work. British sources said Britain was anxious not to undermine Mr Panic in his power-struggle with Slobodan Milosevic, the hardline Serbian president.

Babushkas vent spleen on Gaidar

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

NORMAN Lamont may not be relishing the opening of parliament tomorrow, but if he had witnessed the fate of Yegor Gaidar, Russia's acting prime minister, at the end of the Supreme Soviet's first day yesterday, he would have counted himself fortunate by comparison.

Mr Gaidar, 36, is the architect of the "shock therapy" economic reform programme and is engaged in a prolonged battle with the conservative central bank for fiscal control. A dapper academic, he was considerably less composed by the time he had run the gauntlet of angry grandmothers who gathered outside the White House, the home of parliament, to make clear their dislike of the market economy, the fate of the country and to reveal in the discomfiture of the politicians as they left the building.

"You should be ashamed of yourself, selling the Motherland to speculators Yegor Timurovich Gaidar," they shouted, invoking the full spleen of the patronymic form of address. There was a chorus of cries of "Resign before you destroy our rubble", and one toothless babushka was so furious that she tried to climb into the back of the official limousine with him to finish her rant. Then opposing camps of old ladies (there are loyal grannies, too) began kicking and spitting at each other. Mr Gaidar took advantage of this to order his driver to speed away. The military police stood by watching idly. The Supreme Soviet has succumbed to demo-culture and President Yeltsin's administration, wary of appearing authoritarian, lets the citizen-

ry rant and rave outside the main door to their heart's content.

Earlier, when he called the house to order, Russian Khasbulatov, the parliament wily chairman, was greeted with plaintive cries of "We haven't got seats" from a gaggle of deputies at the back. All 800 elected MPs from the Commonwealth of Independent States are entitled to attend the sessions, but they are seats only for the 300 MPs.

In the parliaments of former communist countries, it is fair to assume the efficiency of the proceedings



will be in inverse proportion to the technological hardware that accompanies them to it is apt that the Supreme Soviet has a giant computer built board which can run the "eyes" and "noes" of the deputies into personal figures in a split second. The deputies were also informed that they had a telephone on their desks, adding the frantic scramble for the one per row available before. Mr Khasbulatov straightened the sleeves of his shiny jacket and set about explaining how a microphone works. Then we stopped for lunch.

Television soap star pillories Quayle

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

MURPHY Brown, America's best-loved and most-hated soap opera character, has simultaneously taken on two new roles in her autumn television series: one as a working single mother, the other as a key figure in the American election.

The fact that Murphy Brown (played by Candice Bergen) does not really exist, is increasingly irrelevant. On Monday night 25 million American households tuned in to the much-hyped premiere of the new season of *Murphy Brown*, which, to nobody's surprise, contained the most stinging attack so far on Dan Quayle, the vice-president.

Last May Mr Quayle accused Murphy Brown of providing a poor role model for young people by glamorising single-motherhood, and the arguments have raged, on-screen and off, ever since.

"Glamorising!" splutters the unwashed and bedraggled Murphy Brown in Mon-

day's premiere after a night without sleep thanks to her new baby. "Do I look glamorous?" ... I didn't just wake up one morning and say 'Oh Gee, I can't get in for a facial so I might as well have a baby.' Much of the rest of the programme was then taken up with a political diatribe that would not have

sounded inappropriate at a Democratic convention.

"In searching for the causes of our social ills we could choose to blame the media or the Congress or an administration that's been in power," Murphy Brown opines. "The vice-president says he felt it was important to open a dialogue about

family values ... Unfortunately it seems that for him the only acceptable definition of a family is a mother, a father and children."

The episode ends with a lorryload of potatoes being dumped in the drive-way of the Quayle family home — a somewhat leaden reference to the vice-president's idiosyncratic spelling.

Before Monday's broadcast, Mr Quayle sent a giant stuffed elephant (the Republican symbol) to the fictional Baby Brown, with a note reading: "You may not realise it yet, but you've helped start an important discussion on ways to strengthen our traditional values."

The vice-president watched the show in Washington with a group of friends that strategically included several single mothers. His wife Marilyn reportedly laughed aloud during the show, but the vice-president could only raise a wan smile during the barrage of criticism.



Bergen: used her soap opera role to rail against the vice-president's views on single parenthood

Poll puts Clinton 21 points in front

Perot is poised for return to the fray

With Ross Perot admitting that his withdrawal was a mistake, the Bush campaign is failing to make headway, Martin Fletcher writes in Washington

to Mr Bush's 37 per cent. It showed Mr Clinton well ahead in every region and backed by one in four Republicans. "We're as flat as the day we left the convention," a Republican source conceded. The poll gave a putative Perot candidacy 12 per cent to 50 for Mr Clinton and 31 for Mr Bush.

New fund-raising results underscored Mr Bush's dismal position. Latest returns show that the Democrats raised a record \$17.3 million (\$9.1 million) in August, the Republicans just \$9 million. On a single day, the Monday after the Republicans' unsavoury convention in Houston last month, the Democrats received an unprecedented \$900,000 in small individual donations.

Just 42 days from the election, when Mr Bush should be campaigning full time in the key swing states, he is still struggling to shore up his base. He spent yesterday on a whirlwind tour of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee, all but one of which emphatically voted Republican in 1988. "We can't find a state where we're really behind," Stan Greenberg, Mr Clinton's pollster, claimed.

The president hopped from one airport rally to another, assailing the Arkansas governor's record with unusual vehemence and accusing him of deceiving the country. Mr Clinton spent the day in Michigan mocking Mr Bush's refusal to participate in the first presidential TV debate, which

had been scheduled for last night in Lansing, the state capital.

The signs are that the Bush campaign will turn increasingly negative, believing can win only by destroying his opponent. On Monday for the first time, Mr Bush directly challenged Mr Clinton's veracity in explaining his Vietnam draft record, saying the issue was not going to go away. At Camp David last weekend he recorded new radio and television commercials, including one attacking Mr Clinton's draft evasion.

Campaign officials insist the issue is an effective means of raising doubts in the public mind about Mr Clinton's character, especially in the south and southwest. In the Post-ABC poll showed only 16 per cent considered it an important factor in deciding which way to vote.

The good news for Mr Bush yesterday was new figures showing a big leap in new home construction in August to the highest level in 18 months.

China repeats claim to Tibet and rejects independence

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

PEKING yesterday published a 37,000-word defence of its rule of Tibet. Entitled *Tibet—its Ownership and Human Rights Situation*, the document sets out to prove that historically the region is part of China, and describes present-day Tibet as stable, prosperous and content. It attacks the Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader, and emphasises that Peking will never contemplate Tibetan independence.

Last year, Peking produced a "white paper" to counter criticism of its human rights record. It was translated into several languages, presented to visiting foreign dignitaries, put out in pamphlet form for foreign tourists to peruse, and became required reading in all state-run offices. The "white paper" on Tibet is

expected to be distributed with similar zeal. It follows Western criticism of Peking's heavy-handed treatment of the remote Himalayan region.

There is an occasional glimpse of reality. The document admits that "the level of economic development and the living standards of the people are still lower than the nation's average due to Tibet's extremely harsh natural conditions and its extremely backward social development".

The document denies that there has been mass Han migration and says "customs there are so different from those in the heartland of the country that people from the interior can hardly adapt to them". This seems to contradict Chinese claims that Hans and Tibetans live in harmony.

As for human rights, the document says: "The democratic reform conducted in Tibet in 1959 abolished the extremely decadent and dark feudal serfdom and the ... serfs and slaves thus gained personal freedom." To prove the independence movement is "a conspiracy of imperialists", the document claims "there was no such word as independence in the Tibetan vocabulary at the beginning of the 20th century".

Tibetans in exile are bound to react angrily to the document. Indeed, there may even be outrage inside Tibet. The last large-scale pro-independence demonstrations occurred in Tibet in 1989, and were crushed when martial law was imposed. Since then, there have been reports of numerous small-scale demonstrations and acts of defiance.

Peking yesterday announced that the Communist party congress would open on October 12. The Chinese news agency Xinhua reported that the congress would endorse senior leader Deng Xiaoping's policy of faster reform. The congress is expected to introduce a "socialist market economy". Mr Deng, 88, is believed, however, still to be involved in a power struggle with ideological hardliners. Xinhua hinted that there would be substantial personnel changes, reporting that "the congress will elect new central leading organs and a number of vigorous, outstanding middle-aged and young cadres who have both ability and political integrity are expected to be elected on to the new central committee".

Leading article, page 13



Hindu revivalists find Aryan heroes

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN VARANASI

Indian history, much of it handed down by British scholars, is being rewritten radically to reflect a greater Hindu viewpoint. Most academics are astonished, and Muslims are outraged. The move is part of a Hindu revivalist campaign known as *Hindutva* (Hinduness). Many teachers are refusing to work from new history textbooks prepared for schools, arguing that the revised interpretations are politically motivated.

Akbar the Great, long praised as the most enlightened of the six Great Mogul emperors, becomes a tyrant under the new version of India's past. Rana Pratap, who resisted him, is presented as a national hero. Aurangzeb, last of the Great Moguls, is accused of more zealotry than usually attributed to him. Indeed, there is nothing good to be said about any of the Muslim periods. Mogul or otherwise. The long-accepted view that pale-skinned Aryans arrived in India from Central Asia 3,500 years ago and imposed themselves on an existing society of darker-skinned aborigines is excised from new school textbooks. Instead, the Aryans have displaced

the dark-skinned Dravidians as the original inhabitants.

This version of events is at odds with practically every history book, and is perhaps the most startling of the many changes. It has been accepted generally that Aryans drove the Dravidians to the south and laid the foundations for the present caste system, initially based on skin colour. Dravidians often belong to lower castes.

Even Mahatma Gandhi, father of the nation, is downgraded. The authors say that Gandhi, Karl Marx and Indira Gandhi all received excessive emphasis. This is plainly meant to discredit the Gandhi-Nehru dynasty.

The new history claims that Alexander the Great did not conquer any part of India because he was roundly defeated by the brave natives. The revised history is being introduced in Uttar Pradesh, the most politically important state in the north, and in the huge central state of Madhya Pradesh. Both are run by the headline Hindu revivalist organisation, the Bharatiya Janata Party.



Guarded look: a young clan fighter in Mogadishu awaiting the return of his clan's warlord after a mission to consolidate his power. Clan tensions, looting and unsafe runways in rural Somalia yesterday forced aid workers to seek safety in one town, cancel food airlifts to a second and dramatically slow

relief flights to two others. The developments were a setback for relief efforts in a country where more than 100,000 people have died from the combined effects of drought and warfare and another two million are threatened. As a result of the incidents airlifts are continuing only to Mogadishu and the small central towns of Sacowin and Uegit. Clan clashes and banditry have been rife since the dictator Mohamed Siad Barre was ousted in January 1991. It is estimated that as much as half of the 165,000 tonnes of international aid delivered this year has been stolen. (AFP)

shu and the small central towns of Sacowin and Uegit. Clan clashes and banditry have been rife since the dictator Mohamed Siad Barre was ousted in January 1991. It is estimated that as much as half of the 165,000 tonnes of international aid delivered this year has been stolen. (AFP)

Pretoria told talks are its last chance

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

AFTER a night of intensive negotiations between the African National Congress and President de Klerk's government, Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, declared that the present talks were the regime's last chance to achieve a summit between himself and Mr de Klerk. He was speaking against the background of a reported 18 deaths in 24 hours in township political violence.

Mr Mandela spent yesterday morning meeting ambassadors recently posted to Pretoria. At the same time Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC's secretary-general, was again negotiating with Roelf Meyer, the constitutional development minister, to try to clear the way for the summit.

Posing for pictures with the envoys, Mr Mandela said: "The meeting between Mr Meyer and Mr Ramaphosa is decisive and crucial, and if no agreements are reached today it is not likely we will meet with the government again."

The *Sowetan*, reported yesterday that issues still separated the two sides were the investigation of 17 ANC and Pan Africanist Congress leaders for terrorist offences, the government's insistence on linking the release of political prisoners to a general amnesty to include state employees, and the Inkatha Freedom party's statement that it would withdraw from talks if there

were a ban on traditional weapons.

Additional urgency has been injected into the attempts to arrange a summit by the announcement that Mr Mandela is leaving for China next Wednesday. With a provincial meeting of the National party in Natal requiring the presence of Mr Meyer and Mr de Klerk tomorrow and on Friday, the window for the summit is very small.

A good deal of drama also surrounds a march by ANC protesters on Ulundi, the KwaZulu homeland capital which, according to speculation, may be planned for Friday. Chief Mangosuthu Buthezi, the KwaZulu prime minister, has described the proposed march as an invasion, and has warned that the low-intensity civil war that has been smouldering in Natal will erupt into full-blown conflict if it goes ahead.

An agreement to attenuate the present campaign of mass action could remove this threat, to the relief of most of those concerned, including those firebrands in the ANC whose lives would be on the line. Harry Gwala, leader of the ANC in the Natal Midlands and a prominent figure in the bloody march into Bisho two weeks ago, seemed yesterday to be backing away from the march, insisting that Ulundi was too far for his members to travel.

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Sex wars that no one ever wins

When ideology enters the bedroom watch out, warns Bryan Appleyard

Ideas can do terrible damage. This week Deirdre Lyndon in a powerful, indeed brilliant, newspaper article described how feminism had wrecked her marriage. Her husband, Neil, has written a savagely anti-feminist book. In the course of the research and writing he became, as one does, obsessed. His views alienated friends and, finally, led to their separation.

"It is," writes Mrs Lyndon, "a clever book but it is intolerant: these are the politics of hatred: divisive and cruel."

Lyndon sees the politics of hatred not in herself, but in the feminists. Their cause has poisoned human relations by its appropriation of the brutal language of class warfare. By identifying women as oppressed objects of history, they have engineered a far more terrible oppression of men. For this he has been excoriated, his sexuality has been called into question and, as his wife

can scarcely be overlooked. Small wonder that a journalist of Lyndon's calibre should conclude that there was a significant wrong that needed to be exposed.

The resulting intolerances are revealed by the real life details of the case. The Lyndons, by the sound of them, politically-correct friends can no longer bear to be associated with him. Mrs Lyndon explains her husband's loss of work after his initial outburst as caused by "smart young men in their hi-tech newspaper offices [who] did not want their feminist colleagues seeing them associate with the extremist that Neil seemed to have become."

This describes all too vividly a social and professional context in which some things simply cannot be said, in which some doctrines are beyond challenge and in which affection takes second place to bigotry. Equally Lyndon appears to have allowed himself to be driven to

Feminism should have made sane women face the fact that there are genuine sexual differences

an ever more extreme, ever more blanket condemnation of women by the reaction of those intellectual small fry who are feminists because it is simply too unfashionable to be anything else.

The obvious point is that, on both sides, the language has been corrupted. The idea that relations between one half of humanity and the other half can be generalised and reduced to a piece of nonsense understood and no realignment, "the hand that signed the treaty" has indeed been the fever. But is it a fatal fever or just a passing sweat?

Politics begins at home, and Mr Major could do worse tomorrow than say sorry and introduce Britain's new board of directors. It includes a new prime minister, a new Chancellor and a completely new corporate strategy. These include a floating pound, no direct German constraint on interest rates, a repatriated economic policy and Maastricht apparently postponed *sine die*. That such an administration should take office without an election, a referendum, a vote in Parliament or even one single change of personnel is unprecedented. It should at least be exciting. The Tory party is testing the concept of "elective dictatorship" perilously close to destruction.

The value of the ERM disarray and of doubts about the pace of EC union across most of northern Europe is that some ideological baggage can at last be discarded. A grouping of 12 "equal" partners was and remains a nonsense, mere code for the strong ruling the weak. Sooner or later realpolitik was bound to triumph: politicians can no more buck the democratic market than central bankers can buck the financial one.

Thus this week France and Germany will begin to see if some

sort of currency union between them and the Benelux nations is feasible. If it succeeds it will not be the end of "Europe", merely a stage in a process. Nor will it be the end of Europe if, as I suspect, it fails. The Maastricht process will continue, but piecemeal, as the natural outcome of intergovernmental cooperation.

Mr Major's handling of the drawn-out Maastricht burial rites has suggested a deftness absent from his handling of sterling. While the EC foreign ministers' autopilot continues to seek an "appendix" Maastricht to put to the Danes, Mr Major can play for time. He is told by his whips not to risk any progress with a ratification bill this year and is committed to sticking with the Danes. Of course this means going back on his "early ratification" promise to his EC

friends. Of course he is humiliating the British electorate by denying them a decision granted to the French and the Danes. But he knows the answer of the British electorate and for the moment he would prefer not to ask the question. Statesmanship often requires a balance of relative humiliations.

Brussels complains that Britain has no coherent European policy. This is simply untrue. The policy is one of function rather than form, of plodding with the tortoise rather than running with the hare. The EC has failed to complete any of the items on its 1990s agenda—single market, farm reform, budget reform, Gatt renegotiation—because its elites have found pursuing "closer union" an easier option. Britain wants them completed fast. Mr Major now needs a fierce metaphorical cull, not least of the

The ancient English tradition of the cane is at last to be abolished, says David Pannick

Why hurt children?

Today in Strasbourg the European Court of Human Rights will hear a case which may finally put an end to corporal punishment in all British schools.

In October 1985, Jeremy Costello-Roberts was a pupil at an independent boarding school. He was reprimanded by a teacher for talking in the corridor. This was his fifth "demerit mark" for minor breaches of school rules. He was told he would receive three "whacks". Three days later, the headmaster called Jeremy into his study and hit him three times on the bottom, through his shorts, with a gym shoe. Jeremy was seven years old. He was away from home for the first time, and had been at school for about a month.

English common law was not troubled by adult teachers hitting children, other than in extreme circumstances. In 1860 Chief Justice Cockburn explained that "a schoolmaster may, for the purpose of correcting what is evil in the child, inflict moderate and reasonable corporal punishment". The law would interfere only "if it be administered for the gratification of passion or of rage, or if it be

immoderate and excessive in its nature or degree, or with an instrument unfit for the purpose and calculated to produce danger to life or limb".

The European Convention on Human Rights has imposed more effective limits on the use of physical pain as a method of punishment. In 1978, the European Court held in the case of *Tyrer* that birching young offenders in the Isle of Man breached Article 3 of the Convention, which prohibits "degrading treatment or punishment". The British judge, Sir Gerald Fitzmaurice, delivered a dissenting opinion which must have bemused his colleagues. He explained that he had been "educated under a system according to which the corporal punishment of schoolboys was regarded as the normal sanction" for misbehaviour, "yet I cannot remember that any boy felt degraded or debased". European judges are less senti-

mental about the alleged benefits of educating young children in conditions that would lead to questions in Parliament if imposed on prisoners in Parkhurst. They have declined to accept that "the happiest days of your life" can be those spent in fear of being beaten with a stick or a piece of footwear by an adult enforcing illogical rules in an arbitrary manner.

In 1982, the European Court held, in the Scottish cases of *Campbell and Cosans*, that the first protocol to the Convention gives parents the right to insist that corporal punishment should not be inflicted on their child at school. In 1986, the European Commission of Human Rights (the lower judicial body) decided in *Karen Watkins v The United Kingdom* that the caning of a 16-year-old girl on the hand by a headmaster in the presence of another male teacher, causing physical injury, was a breach of Article 3.

Parliament responded in 1986 by legislating to prohibit corporal punishment in state schools. However, in the independent sector, it remains lawful, subject to the principles stated by Chief Justice Cockburn. In the case of *Jeremy Costello-Roberts*, the European Commission of Human Rights concluded, by nine votes to four, that the corporal punishment of Jeremy was not degrading treatment or punishment under Article 3 of the Convention. The majority of the Commission thought that this was a mild punishment which could not be castigated as institutionalised violence of the type prohibited by Article 3. This is unconvincing. As the dissenting judgments of Mrs Thune and Mr Loucaides point out, even if Article 3 does not prohibit all corporal punishment, this is a disturbing case on its facts. A very young boy, away from home for the first time, was hit by an adult for trivial

breaches of discipline after waiting three days for the punishment.

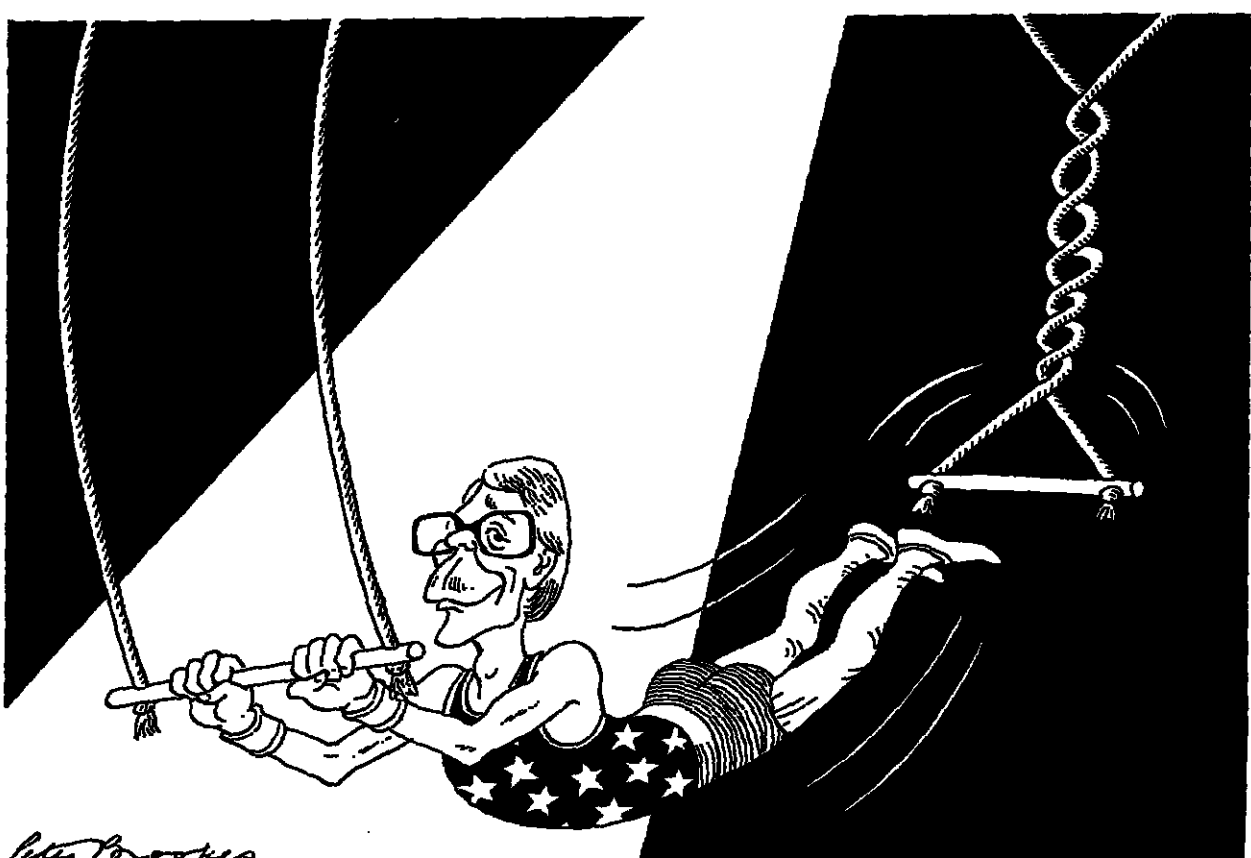
The majority of the Commission did, however, find in favour of Jeremy under Article 8 of the Convention. This guarantees the right to respect for private life. The Commission concluded that the corporal punishment was an unjustified interference with his physical integrity. The European Court is likely to find against the Government under Article 3 or Article 8 of the Convention. The inevitable result will be legislation to abolish corporal punishment in independent schools, as in state schools.

"If you don't leave off chattering your teeth, and shaking with the cold, I'll warn you with a severe thrashing," Dickens' Wackford Squeers told a pupil at Dotheboys Hall. Squeers would have disapproved of the European Convention on Human Rights. But, as the European Court explained in *Tyrer*, the Convention is "a living instrument which must be interpreted in the light of present-day conditions".

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Major's daredevil leap

Simon Jenkins considers a breathtaking week in British politics



John Major

What on earth can he say tomorrow?

Is the past week's Europe debate really John Major's Munich, his Suez, his Falklands invasion? Have Helmut Kohl's panzer divisions again smashed through a British prime minister's good intentions and left his critics crying, "In the name of God, go!"

After two years of numbing recession at the heart of Europe, of Maastricht and the exchange rate mechanism (ERM), of no devaluation and no realignment, "the hand that signed the treaty" has indeed been the fever. But is it a fatal fever or just a passing sweat?

Politics begins at home, and Mr Major could do worse tomorrow than say sorry and introduce Britain's new board of directors. It includes a new prime minister, a new Chancellor and a completely new corporate strategy. These include a floating pound, no direct German constraint on interest rates, a repatriated economic policy and Maastricht apparently postponed *sine die*. That such an administration should take office without an election, a referendum, a vote in Parliament or even one single change of personnel is unprecedented. It should at least be exciting. The Tory party is testing the concept of "elective dictatorship" perilously close to destruction.

The value of the ERM disarray and of doubts about the pace of EC union across most of northern Europe is that some ideological baggage can at last be discarded. A grouping of 12 "equal" partners was and remains a nonsense, mere code for the strong ruling the weak. Sooner or later realpolitik was bound to triumph: politicians can no more buck the democratic market than central bankers can buck the financial one.

Thus this week France and Germany will begin to see if some

sort of currency union between them and the Benelux nations is feasible. If it succeeds it will not be the end of "Europe", merely a stage in a process. Nor will it be the end of Europe if, as I suspect, it fails. The Maastricht process will continue, but piecemeal, as the natural outcome of intergovernmental cooperation.

Mr Major's handling of the drawn-out Maastricht burial rites has suggested a deftness absent from his handling of sterling. While the EC foreign ministers' autopilot continues to seek an "appendix" Maastricht to put to the Danes, Mr Major can play for time. He is told by his whips not to risk any progress with a ratification bill this year and is committed to sticking with the Danes. Of course this means going back on his "early ratification" promise to his EC

friends. Of course he is humiliating the British electorate by denying them a decision granted to the French and the Danes. But he knows the answer of the British electorate and for the moment he would prefer not to ask the question. Statesmanship often requires a balance of relative humiliations.

Brussels complains that Britain has no coherent European policy. This is simply untrue. The policy is one of function rather than form, of plodding with the tortoise rather than running with the hare. The EC has failed to complete any of the items on its 1990s agenda—single market, farm reform, budget reform, Gatt renegotiation—because its elites have found pursuing "closer union" an easier option. Britain wants them completed fast. Mr Major now needs a fierce metaphorical cull, not least of the

nonsensical "two-speed" Europe. Europe's economies move at many and varying speeds, in which "miracle" is customarily followed by "crisis" (especially in Italy). Who knows but that those who stay outside the social chapter may not yet be in the fast track while the Germans preside over the slow? If the EC really wants to promote growth among its member states, it could do no better than to complete the single market and fight the cartels that so damage Europe's world competitiveness.

The British government signed the Treaty of Rome and the Single European Act and is a natural part of this argument. Mr Major is still the European leader with the most secure domestic base. He is still president of the Council of Ministers. He is a good chairman and a voice of practical common sense.

He may have made a spectacular hash of the past few weeks, but he might reasonably ask his partners, in whose cause? The lights are not going out all over Europe. A few chandeliers have crashed on a few gilded pates. But as Chesteron said, nothing more inclines a man to review philosophies and religions than a sharp blow over the head.

Yet all this is merely background noise to what is to take place tomorrow. What is really on parliamentary parade is a new prime minister. Gone for ever is Mr Major the earnest custodian of the Thatcherite succession, milder perhaps, more accommodating, but rooted in the leadership of stubborn consistency. That is all forgotten. Over him now looms the ghost of post-devaluation Harold Wilson, of a man at bay, shifting, uncertain, paranoid.

Mr Major must turn the stunning pragmatism of the past week to advantage. He remains a little-known personality. He emerged two years ago from the darker recesses of the Tory club with none of the razzmatazz of his predecessor. Today he is caught in the spotlight and must summon up his energy to perform a novel act, that of the great political acrobat, the fast mover, the operator, even the cynic. For the new John Major, no leap is too breathtaking, no boundary is too fixed. He is loyal to his friends as he is loyal to his policies, until the gods of circumstance call for a turn of the screw and a flash of the knife.

This is to be Mr Major's rite of initiation. He is positioned to emerge as one of Europe's most secure and, if only for that reason, dominant leaders in the Realistic Nineties. But for that he must revel in the opportunism of the past week. And as for treaties, he must say with de Gaulle, "they are like young girls and roses, they last as long as they last."

...and moreover ALAN COREN

Before we begin, you will need to know my views on Maastricht. These are most succinctly summarised in the words of, interestingly enough, a highly intelligent Dane of my acquaintance: "If it be now, 'tis not to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come. The readiness is all."

But sadly, thanks to an unfortunate rapier incident, he was not around to express this cogent opinion when his countrymen were invited to express theirs in the national referendum which has landed all of us in the soup, for he might well have swung it for the Eurosceptics, because he was not only smart, he was also a prominent member of the royal family, and we have all had it dinned in to us over the past turbulent weeks that royal families are highly influential exemplars who give the rest of us our behavioural cues: a thought I suggest you put on the backburner for a paragraph or two, since I shall be stirring it in later.

Before that, you should understand that I am so committed a Euroist that I spent last weekend in France, in a hamlet (oh come on, give me some credit, this is a serious piece) called St Martin d'Oyde, 60 km south of Toulouse and chosen by me with great care because it is not only a typical peasant backwater of the most fervent Non! persuasion, it also contains fewer than a hundred souls of voting age. My plan was to hang around outside the little *mairie* throughout Sunday, looking simultaneously British, fraternal

and knowledgeable, and buttonhole the entire arriving vote-foro into sticking their X in the *Oui* box. In the event, however, their Pyrenean accent made it so difficult for us to engage in any meaningful dialogue—in return for my opening observations on the ERM, most responded by telling me the time, offering to light my cigarette, or indicating the quickest route to Pamiers, while not a few attempted to get through to me in pigeon-German—that I soon chucked in the sponge and went off to get drunk, but you can see that I do not take federalism lightly.

Unlike, it seems, our own royal family, whom we must now shift to the front burner: for, returning to Toulouse airport on Tuesday with my heart still pounding from the closeness of the victory, and falling upon my first English newspaper for three days in expectation of a photograph of, say, Lady Thatcher running up and down the pavement shrieking "Rejoice! Rejoice!", I found instead that what preoccupied Fleet Street that morning was that the Princess of Wales had given up her Mercedes.

Quickly, I stuffed the newspaper into my flight-bag, for there were Europeans about, and since I had as yet no answers for the questions they would be bound to ask were they to spot the headlines, I dared not read the story until I was aboard. And when I at last did so, the mouth went dry, for the first time in my life, I took a bolted sweet off a stewardess. Because not one but two shattering reasons were adduced to

explain her decision, and both enjoyed the imprimatur of that palace spokesman who through-out this summer's fraught shenanigans had remained notable primarily for not putting his spoke in it at all.

The Princess, it appears, has relinquished her glitzy runabout because (a) she has been forced to tighten her belt like anybody else, and (b) it is inappropriate for her to drive a German car when the domestic motor industry is up the spout. In other words, the future queen of England is, as the result of Britain's economic mismanagement, (a) so broke that she cannot afford even to lease a car which the average German businessman traditionally buys for his *Sitzkuchen auf der Seite*, and (b) so protectionist that she would rather tangle about in an old Mini van than be caught dead driving something foreign.

Um Gottes willen! as we Europeans cry, what kind of a Maastricht signal is that? Amid all the national damage done by earlier examples of royal incalculability, did anything come within a mile of this? And are we to assume, from the Palace's unprecedented official approval, that the monarchy is once more the glass in which we must dress ourselves? Is Diana's isolationist suit to be followed?

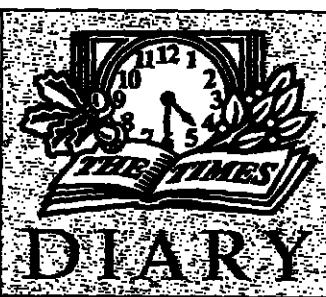
Certainly not. Amends will have to be made, and quickly. Quite what concrete form these should take I am not qualified to judge, but, for an immediate token gesture, the royal family could do a lot worse than change its surname back to Hanover.

Mellor takes on the tabloids

AS reports that he is close to resigning dominated the headlines yesterday, David Mellor was seeking himself for one of the most difficult evenings of his life. Tonight he will come face to face with his tormentors when he addresses 400 journalists and editors at the annual Newspaper Press Fund reception at Stationers' Hall in the City of London.

Mellor's office insists that he will fulfil his obligation as the guest of honour and has no intention of resigning. But it seems that his diary has been kept conveniently empty in the coming weeks. After tonight's brave foray, Mellor has virtually no public commitments. On Thursday he has cancelled an appearance opening the four-day Classical Music Show at the Barbican. "After today there is a lot of internal business and not an enormous amount out of the department. He is due to go to Yorkshire and Manchester on October 2 but that hasn't been finalised and after that it's his office's say."

Normally tonight's event is addressed by the prime minister but the invitation was passed to Mellor because of John Major's heavy social duties while Britain has the Euro-presidency. Peter Evans, director of the Newspaper Press Fund, which supports journalists and their families who have fallen on hard times, says: "We are still expecting Mellor. His office rang me rather worried about a suggestion that a lot of tickets had been bought by Sun journalists who were going to make his life misery. I told them that we are a respected organisation which treats its guests properly. I think they were reassured."



Nevertheless, Mellor is likely to meet some of his most vociferous critics at the reception. "We had Kelvin Mackenzie and Richard Stott last year. The *Mirror* is always a great supporter," says Evans. Mackenzie has declined an invitation this year although his troops will be present in numbers. However, Mellor will be forced to rub shoulders with both Bill Hagerly, editor of *The People*, which broke the story of Mellor's affair with Antonia de Sancha, and Stott, who was editor of the same paper when it published the story which led to the Mona Bauwens libel action.

And so what will Mellor say to those who have been baying for his blood? Not even his office knows. "He has not asked us to draft a speech," says an aide. "He is good at talking off the cuff and he will wait until the event to decide what is appropriate."

● *Pjama-clad fans of Radio Four's Book at Bedtime* expecting to hear *Stranger at The Gates*, a biography of James Baldwin, this week will hear Joanna Lumley reading *Ian Fleming's On Her Majesty's Secret Service* instead. Was Baldwin found to be too risqué? No, says bedtime editor David Benedictus, "the book was simply no good." But surely he read it before commissioning? "Sometimes books just don't translate," he says.

Braw bricht what?

ALEX Salmond has a stirring message for the Scottish Nationalists as they gather for their annual conference in Perth today. "Fouhertit committal till our chavvin for the rich tae gang our ain gait," says the leader in the conference handbook. For which read, or so we are told: "The SNP still has a total commitment to the independence struggle."

Both Dornic and Gaelic will be heard at the conference for the second year running although they are incomprehensible to most of the delegates. Even Salmond himself required a translator, it seems.

Sic corrieneuching!



for his rant about "Labour's heid bummers" (translation: "Labour's Scottish leadership").

Le vieux cravat

FORGET Oxbridge. It is a fair bet that most of the drafting for yesterday's meeting between Helmut Kohl and Francois Mitterrand was masterminded by that elite cadre of graduates from Europe's most exclusive establishment, the Ecole Nationale d'Administration. Enarques, as the grandest of Parisian

grandes écoles is known, has become the alma mater of a quite fearsome mafia within Europe's chancelleries, making Britain's old school tie look tame by comparison. Kohl's European policy adviser Joachim Bitterlich is a former pupil, as is Pascal Lamy, the powerful *chef de cabinet* of Jacques Delors, the EC president. Most of Mitterrand's closest advisers are also graduates. Both Elizabeth Guigou, Mitterrand's minister for European affairs, and her *chef de cabinet* Pierre Vimont, are Enarques.

Founded by de Gaulle in 1945 as an antidote to the Vichy regime, the school has always bred the highest *hauts fonctionnaires* to run the republic. Now its tentacles seem to extend across the whole of Europe. In addition to Giscard d'Estaing, Rocard, Fabius and Chirac, the Rue de L'Université on the left bank has also been home to hundreds of senior Eurocrats in Brussels as well as more than 250 civil servants in Bonn. "They are intelligent, uncorrupt and absolutely convinced they are right," says one Brussels insider. "They used to say that France was run by thousands of little Robespierres. Now the Enarques are effectively running Europe."

● Meanwhile there were red faces at the European Commission offices in London yesterday with the launch of the third edition of *Europe in Figures*—a huge, comprehensive guide to statistics within the community. "In April 1992 the Greek drachma was the only Community currency not yet part of the EMS exchange-rate mechanism," the book gushes. "The Spanish peseta entered the mechanism in September 1989, the pound sterling in October 1990 and the escudo in April 1992." The fourth edition is presumably on its way to the printers.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23 1992



THE DUTY OF OPPOSITION

John Smith may never get a better opportunity to damage the prime minister in Parliament than on his first opportunity tomorrow. A new leader of the Opposition would normally expect some rehearsal before his first big night. Mr Smith will have none. If he rises to the occasion, he could set Labour on the way to being the serious opposition that Britain needs. All the signs are, however, that his instincts will hold him back.

Today Labour's shadow cabinet and national executive committee will be asked to support a policy paper hurriedly drawn up by the leadership to paper over party divisions. It is a declaration of support for Europe and for a system of stable or managed exchange rates. Any decision on Maastricht, it will say, should be postponed until after the Danish position becomes clear. Mr Smith is likely to add that he is firmly against a British referendum. In other words, Labour policy on Europe will be little different from that of the government.

So lame a document will hardly provide Mr Smith with the ammunition he would need to make a mark. The Labour leader may be an able performer at the dispatch box, but his harps will lack poison unless they are backed by an alternative and coherent opposition policy.

Mr Smith is in an understandable quandary. He has always been staunchly pro-European. He fought hard for the Common Market in days when his colleagues could barely utter the word market at all. As Shadow Chancellor, he backed entry into the exchange-rate mechanism long before Mr Major took the plunge. Labour supported the whole of the Maastricht treaty and criticised Mr Major for negotiating opt-outs on the social chapter and economic and monetary union. Mr Smith fears to imperil his European credentials.

That would be a reasonable fear if support for Maastricht were a necessary condition for being pro-European. When the treaty was being negotiated, the one did seem to

presuppose the other. All member states bar Britain seemed then both fervent and united in their support for the treaty.

But events have moved on. No longer do the other members unanimously or wholeheartedly support Maastricht. The Danes have rejected it and want substantial additions before they hold another referendum. The French have expressed the strongest possible reservations compatible with voting yes. The German people, if not their government, have grave doubts about EMU.

One of the most effective claims of the "no" campaign in France was that one could be pro-European but anti-Maastricht. Mr Smith could rationally oppose Maastricht in its current form without losing any of his pro-European credibility. He would both capitalise on the government's disarray and resolve the difficulties in his own shadow cabinet if he demanded that Mr Major back renegotiation of the treaty. He could reinforce his commitment to democracy by calling for a referendum in Britain on the renegotiated package.

There are many arguments of principle for a referendum in this country: the constitutional implications of the treaty, the inability of Parliament itself to change it and the splits within rather than between the parties. In such circumstances a whipped vote in the House of Commons would represent somewhat less than a triumph for democracy.

Mr Smith could add a little pragmatism to this cocktail. If and when the Maastricht bill reaches the floor of the House, Labour could make life difficult for the government by voting against procedural motions. But that would look like opposition for the sake of it. If Labour instead were to back an amendment calling for a referendum, it could confidently combine with enough Tory rebels to win.

Mr Smith has almost abandoned the duties of opposition in the past three months. He owes it to the country to do the job for which he is paid.

THE LOST HORIZON

If China's decision to publish a white paper on the situation in Tibet is a sign that it is prepared to institute reform in the country it has occupied and suppressed for 40 years, then the message is welcome. Since 1949, successive Peking regimes have done their best to eradicate the culture of Tibet and dilute its population with Han Chinese. While temporarily overshadowed by other tragedies — not least the massacre in Tiananmen Square in 1989 — this policy has continued relentlessly, only coming to light when brave monks defy the brutality of the Chinese army and security services to stage a protest, however small, or when a rare report about daily life is smuggled out in conditions of great peril. The Chinese government makes a determined effort to ensure that the rest of the world remains in ignorance of its systematic destruction of the country's religious and cultural heritage.

The very publication of this white paper shows that the Chinese know they have a public relations problem to overcome; but even the most cynical Madison Avenue operation would not stoop to the sort of propaganda now being peddled by the old men of Peking. The white paper on Tibet follows similar exercises on human rights and prison conditions. These publications are as much to educate communist cadres on the official position on any given subject as to present a glossy face of China to foreigners.

For the new document to contribute to the dissemination of information about Tibet and to an improvement both in conditions there and in foreign understanding of the problems of the territory, it must be seen to be both fair and accurate. Unfortunately the first indications are that a number of its

points are misleading, and its thesis consists mainly of positions that the Chinese government well knows are both inaccurate and unacceptable. But even in that, the paper reveals what the government knows to be the weaknesses of its position, taking some trouble to refute foreign criticism of its policy of increasing the number of ethnic Chinese. The white paper claims that there has been only a modest decline of 1.2 per cent in the ethnic Tibetan sector of the population since 1964. The Chinese government is clearly using only the area of the modern Tibet Autonomous Region for its calculations. This covers only about half the land area of traditional Tibet, and fails to take into account the thousands of ethnic Chinese soldiers, cadres, technicians and their families, and settlers who have moved into the country.

In a world rapidly moving to recognise the rights of nationalities, the Chinese government has reiterated its insistence that Tibet has been an integral part of the country since the 13th century. It has once again rejected any kind of partial independence, and ruled out any prospect of talks with the Dalai Lama unless he concedes that point.

The British government moved tentatively last year to help end this tragedy by having the prime minister meet the Dalai Lama, if only in his religious capacity. The Chinese government, for its part, has now finally conceded that it has a serious problem. Western governments should take a lesson from the Chinese negotiating style, and use this so-called white paper as a starting point in the campaign to compel Peking to disgorge that benighted and oppressed country.

OPEN UNIVERSITIES

The Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals assembles in Exeter today for the last time as the old network representing the first division of British higher education, the universities. From next week it will be joined by the present second division, the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, to form a single club representing almost 80 universities of all sorts, old and new.

These are exciting times for higher education. Those toiling in the vineyards and salt-mines of Academe, after the constant changes and exhortations and political harassment of the past 30 years, must occasionally think of exciting times as the old Chinese curse, and long for a bit of peace to get on with their proper work of research and teaching.

But the ivory tower is an obsolete structure. Changes are flowing fast around its ruins. Top of the agenda this week must be the means to ensure that the direction of the flow be right.

It is not as though there are that many national institutions in which the United Kingdom still confidently leads the world. From football to the problematic business of running an economy, British is no longer self-evidently best. But British universities still can make that claim. They now have a chance, while retaining the high ground, to take a step forward into the wider world in which higher education will become much more widely available.

Autonomy of universities is an old British tradition, fiercely defended as a bastion of free speech and thought. This autonomy has not always been well used; rigid egalitarian pay scales were aimed more at creating commonroom amity than promoting quality of work. There are few more devoted defenders of territory than the academic — as so many modern novels, many of them written by academics, describe.

But greater state control of university work would be worse. In order to preserve their independence from outside meddling, individual universities need to cede some of it to their representative body. The vice chancellors should ponder how best this can be done.

The leaders of higher education in Britain should be considering the vast and necessary expansion, which has increased student numbers to 1.2 million, double what they were 20 years ago. By the end of the decade, one in three British school-leavers is expected to go into some kind of further study. The vice chancellors need to ensure as far as possible that more does not necessarily mean worse.

They should consider getting more use out of the academic year and academic plant, new teaching methods, and local rather than boarding universities. They must maintain the best of the old standards while doubling their student numbers. There must be no retreat from the pursuit of the highest in all subjects, which is at the heart of higher education. The Secretary of State for Education and Science should give his own advice on this topic when he speaks to the committee this afternoon.

The university sector has been redefined to include skills and professions previously neglected. This country is desperately short of competent and well-educated people in all fields, and there should be no snobbish mockery of catering or fashion design as university subjects.

The challenge is to help large numbers of people who have previously missed it to intellectual and aesthetic satisfaction. For too long Britain has been too elitist at excluding from esteem and self-esteem those who could have benefited from higher education. There is still a chance to get it right.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Moral and legal issues raised by verdict on Dr Cox

From Dr Tim Helme

Sir, The law, in the case of Dr Nigel Cox (report and leading article, September 21), appears to have functioned with both malevolence and disimulation. In threatening to destroy the doctor's career, by charging him with attempted murder, when there was no suggestion that he had not acted in his patient's interests and at her own request and with the consent of her family, the law appears to have behaved with remarkable inhumanity. By avoiding a prosecution for murder, and thus a mandatory life sentence, it seems merely to have attempted to dissimulate its malevolence.

The moral justification for Dr Cox's action was that he believed he was motivated by compassion rather than malice. Three quarters of the population, it may be assumed from an opinion poll on euthanasia conducted by NOP in 1989, agree with him.

Had Dr Cox actually been charged with murder it is therefore likely that the jury would have refused to convict him, perhaps basing their decision on the commonsense view that he had not acted with "malice aforethought", a phrase which should be deemed to mean whatever they chose to take it to mean.

The task confronting the law is to translate this moral justification into a legal defence, notwithstanding the difficulties inherent in attributing such motivation. What is required, therefore, is legislation by which a medical practitioner, after consultation with a colleague, would be obliged to notify his intent to kill before carrying out a conscientious act of euthanasia, in order to be able to claim a special defence. This might be similar to the mechanism which provides doctors with a restricted liberty to detain patients against their wishes under the Mental Health Act 1983.

What is not required is a system whereby the legal profession, rather than facing this task, deals with an intrinsically intractable problem by pillorying individual physicians.

Yours faithfully,
TIM HELME,
6 Rivermill,
151 Grosvenor Road, SW1.
September 21.

From Mr Kenneth Rose

Sir, Dr Colin Brewer and Mr Ludovic Kennedy, in calling for a royal pardon for Dr Nigel Cox (letter, September 22), invoke the lethal injection given to King George V on his deathbed in 1936 by Lord Dawson of Penn.

There is a serious inaccuracy in their letter. The king was not suffering from

terminal cancer but from cardiac weakness, caused by bronchial catarrh. At the time Dawson administered the injection, the king was comatose and in no obvious pain.

Dawson's decision "to determine the end", as he put it, was not only based upon the supposed physical suffering of the patient. His case-notes continue: "the curtailment of the phase of physical dying has long appeared to me right when any or various circumstances call for it — whether those circumstances comprise pain or distress of the patient or affect relatives".

Many will feel that those last three words widen the grounds of euthanasia to an unacceptable degree.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH ROSE,
38 Brunswick Gardens, W8.
September 22.

From Dr Peggy Norris

Sir, Your leading article today is wrong to suggest that "mercy" killing should become a lesser offence than homicide. The state must protect the life of every citizen, not least the sick.

The criminal law revision committee decided that "mercy" killing should remain within the homicide law for this very reason; they thought it unjust to create a separate category of victim who would have less protection than one who was healthy. The Nathan committee also rejected the proposal.

The hospice movement has accepted the challenge of treating dying patients and conquering their distress. Its expertise should always be called on in difficult cases.

Society often tries to make doctors bend the strict medical ethic, and never more so than at the present time.

Yours faithfully,
PEGGY NORRIS
(Honorary Secretary),
Doctors Who Respect Human Life,
79 St Mary's Road,
Huyton, Liverpool.
September 21.

From Mr John Hardy

Sir, By any standards of decency, compassion and humanity Dr Cox would have been guilty of a crime had he not administered the merciful last injection to his dying patient. Faced with an impossible ethical dilemma he acted with high moral courage and

evidently in accordance with the wishes of his patient and her family. In consequence there is a possibility that he may never be able to work in medicine again.

Yours sincerely,
MARY GILBERT,
Longmead, Westcott,
Nr Dorking, Surrey.
September 21.

The distinction between passive and active euthanasia (referred to in your editorial today) is too simplistic. A code of ethics, enacted in legislation, must be devised which ensures that terminally-ill patients can die with as little anguish and as much dignity as possible without jeopardising the livelihood and liberty of their doctor.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HARDY,
1 Hare Court, Temple, EC4.
September 21.

From Mr John Campion

Sir, I am disappointed that the jury in Dr Nigel Cox's case did not exercise its privilege of finding him not guilty in spite of the evidence. The difficulty of securing a conviction is a powerful influence in bending about a change in the law.

In any such change, an obvious precaution against abuse of a doctor's freedom to terminate life, legal or not, would be to prevent his benefiting under the will of the patient he kills.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CAMPION,
Craigmyle House, Saint Felix School,
Southwold, Suffolk.
September 21.

From Mrs D. W. Bastow

Sir, Every experienced hospital nurse will, I am sure, have assisted a doctor to end the life of a terminally-ill patient, although some may be unwilling to admit it.

Dr Cox has been made a scapegoat for people like myself. The shame of it all is that he has had to stand trial alone, representing thousands of caring doctors and nurses who have committed exactly the same crime.

Yours faithfully,
ANN BASTOW,
The Malthouse,
Malthouse Lane, Hassocks, Sussex.
September 20.

From Mrs Mary Gilbert

Sir, I doubt if there were any rheumatoid arthritis sufferers on the jury at Winchester Crown Court. I reckon Dr Nigel Cox deserves our gratitude, for his courage and compassion.

His only mistake was to be too honest in recording the event. "It is the quality not the quantity of life that matters."

Yours sincerely,
MARY GILBERT,
Longmead, Westcott,
Nr Dorking, Surrey.
September 21.

'Tricks' in conduct of Romania ballot

From Mrs Jessica Douglas-Home

Sir, This Sunday Western observers have been invited to Romania to attend without restrictions the presidential and parliamentary elections. The Romanian people themselves, however, are to be prevented by a new law from travelling their country to observe the elections and will suffer a prison sentence if they do so. Of course Western observers cannot cover the whole country, nor can they wait for two weeks after Sunday until the final count comes in — a trick well used in the 1990 elections.

Problems also arise over watching the ballot boxes on the Sunday evening, when they are removed from the voting stations to the counting headquarters. Officials have confessed to their friends how easy it was in the last election to despoil ballot papers unfavourable to President Iliescu and his National Salvation Front.

This time we know that in at least one region boxes full of stamped votes are already in place. In a closely contested election the temptation to tamper with the ballot will be still greater than during the 1990 election — which Iliescu was bound to win without fraud.

Romanians still do not have access to free television and newspapers. Television is under Iliescu's control. Reporters who gave enthusiastic coverage to the king's visit in April were removed from their jobs. Other journalists have been shot at or harassed. Iliescu recently lost his temper with a journalist, Pavel Pirvu, at a campaign meeting in Constanta, and violently grabbed him by the neck. This, according to newspaper reports, was to teach him "Iliescu's form of democracy". State television did not report the incident and its film has been destroyed.

Opinion polls in Romania point to victory for the opposition, but if vote counting is rigged, the will of the people counts for nothing. With vast sums of aid waiting to be allotted to Romania, Western bodies must pay attention to the fine detail of the results.

It is important not only for Romanians themselves but also for the West that its aid is not inadvertently used to consolidate a corrupt and lawless regime which twice in the past has not hesitated to use a mob of miners to remove troublesome opponents.

Yours etc.,
JESSICA DOUGLAS-HOME,
63 Hillgate Place, W8.
September 21.

Thatcher and Priestley

From Mr J. B. Robinson

Sir, Jeremy Kingston says that the National Theatre's production of *An Inspector Calls* (review, September 14) shows "how false, corrupting and dangerous are such pronouncements" as Margaret Thatcher's that "there is no such thing as society". There are individual men and women, and there are families". In my opinion the Thatcher quotation aptly encapsulates the message of Priestley's play.

The girl in the play was not killed by "society" or "the system" but by the individual prejudice, greed and selfishness of the members of the family.

That was precisely the message which Baroness Thatcher tried to put across during her years in office. We are all individually responsible for what happens to ourselves and to others: the concept of "society" is merely an attempt to avoid personal guilt.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN B. ROBINSON,
Street Farm House,
Stanton, Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk.
September 14.

The 'Red Baron'

From Dr J. A. Hellen

Sir, The description in today's *Diary of Manfred, Freiherr von Richthofen*, "the infamous Red Baron" is scarcely fair. Richthofen is honoured in Germany and in Britain for combining the chivalry of an earlier age with pre-eminence as a fighter pilot. His portrait still hangs in the College Hall library at RAF Cranwell.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. HELLEN,
Trenance House, Lintford Road,
Rowlands Gill, Tyne and Wear.
September 17.

Floating funds

From Mr Tom Rowland

Sir, This letter from a remote hamlet in Sussex to the editor of *The Times* spent under a minute en route thanks to the wizardry of modern electronics. A notice in our local building society announces that cheques paid in today, September 22, will be cleared on October 3.

I wonder if during these 11 days men in red braces will be making free with my money: maybe faxing it back and forth world-wide before the principal is finally credited on Saturday week.

Yours faithfully,
TOM ROWLAND,
Bushovel Farm, Wiston,
Steyning, West Sussex.
September 22.

Policies outside ERM

From the Chairman of the Tory Reform Group

Sir, The suspension of sterling from the exchange-rate mechanism ends a period in which the mechanism has shown itself to be the most effective discipline experienced by the UK to force down inflation. It is vital that we maintain an international discipline and hold fast to the goal of convergence and European monetary union.

The prime minister had already shown himself to have had a better judgment than his fellow heads of government on the realities of political union. He has now been shown to have had the better judgment on the realities of monetary union when he proposed his "hard ecu" alternative to Delors' idealism.

The country cannot wait to stumble across an alternative anti-inflation policy. The current strategy should be put back on the tracks. At their October summit in London European ministers should reaffirm their staunch commitment to monetary union.

To make such commitment real there should be the rapid adoption of a hard ecu as legal tender throughout the EC, parallel to existing national currencies. To underscore the anti-inflationary stance participating governments would be required to have independent central banks or put in place legislation to expedite the granting of independence.

National currencies would continue to have established but flexible rates against the ecu. People and businesses would have a direct choice about choosing EMU by choosing to use ecus. Consumers and companies would be able to assess prices and costs

across the community, making real the single market and returning confidence to business planning. Competitive pricing and wage-setting would hold down inflationary pressures.

Such resolution and such toughening of the institutional framework should be enough to allow the Bundesbank to change its chosen anti-inflationary tool from high rates to a higher-valued mark — signalling beyond any doubt a period of falling interest rates.

There are alternatives — letting the pound free-fall to get growth at any inflationary price, or an expensive (and perhaps futile) attempt to job the pound back into the ERM, having already lost face once. The Chancellor's "hurricanes" have cleared the ground for the government to go forward, having reshaped and strengthened its economic strategy and having put EMU back on track, based on pragmatism and popular choice.

Yours etc.,
NEALE STEVENSON,
Chairman, Tory Reform Group,
Sheraton House,
Castle Park, Cambridge.
September 21.

From Mr C. H. Harmer

Sir, The government has just spent £15 billion in a failed effort to preserve a rate of exchange which was ruining our economy. Yet if any of us suggested that we should raise a loan of £15 billion to build the high-speed rail link to the Channel tunnel, complete the Jubilee line and do all the things which we can all see with our own eyes are needed, an army of economists, experts and know-nothings would tear us to pieces, and accuse us of stoking up inflation and goodness knows what else.

Yours faithfully,
MADRON SELIGMAN,
Micklepage House, Nuthurst,
Nr Horsham, West Sussex.
September 19.

Attitudes on Tibet

From Mr John Billington

Sir, *The Times* has again supported Tibet and expressed scorn for the shameful appeasement of China that successive governments have adopted (leading article, September 17). In the United States also increasing fury within Congress and the Democratic party is being voiced against the administration's soft attitude towards the tyrants of Peking at a time when political pragmatism no longer needs China to counter what was once a threat to the old Soviet Union.

A review of our policy towards both China and Tibet is long overdue.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BILLINGTON,
10 Burton Road, Repton, Derbyshire.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Teachers' pay claim

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers

Sir, You accurately quote me (leading article, September 15) as saying: "The government will tell us that now in the middle of a recession it is not the right time to increase investment in the service [education]." It is a pity that you did not also quote my following three short sentences:

For this government, the right time to invest in education never seems to come. For every child, now is the only time. For each child, there is only one time and it is always the present.

Since 1987 the government has determined teachers' pay. The effect has been to worsen the relative position of teachers' pay by over 10 per cent. During the same period other groups of employees, many in occupations which also compete for graduates, have had larger increases than teachers.

You suggest that teacher shortages

have practically disappeared. It is easy to end a shortage if you increase class sizes, double up classes when a teacher is off sick, erode teaching support time, and accept specialist subjects being taught by teachers without a relevant qualification.

It is also easy to recruit into teacher training if jobs are not readily available elsewhere. That does not ensure those students will remain in the profession.

Once the economy improves we face the danger of a return to children being sent home because there are too few teachers. That will inevitably be the result if the government refuses to ensure teachers' salaries are competitive with those available elsewhere and reflect the importance of their role.

Yours sincerely,
DOUG McAVOY, General Secretary,
National Union of Teachers,
Hamilton House, WC1.
September 16.

OBITUARIES

PIERRE-FÉLIX GUATTARI

Pierre-Félix Guattari, French psychoanalyst, environmentalist and author, died of a heart attack near Blois on August 28 aged 62. He was born on April 30, 1930.

JEAN Oury, Pierre-Félix Guattari's mentor and collaborator, put his finger on his friend's chief characteristic when he declared in posthumous tribute that Guattari's life had been "a constant work in progress". His late colleague was among the most fluid, versatile and eclectic of the leading psychiatric thinkers of his day.

Guattari was a man of high intelligence, wisdom, and tolerance. He was gifted with a humility rare in his profession, but then he always resisted the notion of "professing" any single discipline. And he tended to refer to himself as an amateur. He had the charm, honesty and good faith of one of his most notable French predecessors, Charles Fourier, and, like Fourier, could see the good as well as the bad in almost anything. Jack Lang, France's culture minister, who by Guattari's standards had defected to the enemy, said that his "thoughts were always rapid and inventive". He was above all a pragmatist.

Two other men were to



influence Guattari. Michel Foucault's 1961 book *Histoire de la folie* was crucial, and so was a 1969 meeting with Gilles Deleuze, who was to become his close friend and collaborator.

Guattari had met the psychoanalyst Jean Oury while he was still at school, and followed him in joining the French "anti-psychiatry" school. Through Oury he underwent analysis with Jacques Lacan. Oury, strongly under Lacan's influence, had founded a clinic, La Borde, near Blois, where the methods were "anti-psychiatric", and where the patients were encouraged to help in operating the establishment. Unlike R. D. Laing in Britain, Oury believed that schizophrenics were ill — rather than "creative" — but he also believed that they could be

cured. He, Guattari and others achieved some remarkable results without recourse to drugs or restraint. However, La Borde was, and still is, regarded as revolutionary by the French medical establishment.

Guattari followed Oury in joining the École Freudienne, which Lacan founded in 1964, and eventually became an analyst there, as well as building himself a private practice and continuing at La Borde. After seven years of analysis he became disenchanted with some aspects of Lacan's methods, which he felt still owed too much to Freud; but, typically, remained a member of the school until it was wound up.

It was characteristic of Guattari that he should have caused great consternation by circulating to some inmates of France's conventional psychiatric hospitals the key-designs for their locked wards. It was probably fortunate that the authorities changed the locks, in order to frustrate a mass exodus of intellectual psychotics. But it was less fortunate that no one took the point he was making.

Guattari's heyday came in 1968, when he was directly involved in "occupations", "happenings" and other student phenomena. Although he was against all authority and had at one time been a member of the Communist party, he came to criticise the revolutionaries for their failures, but always thought of the 1960s as a time of "spring" and what followed as stultifying. He became associated in the public mind with terrorism, mainly through his support of — or loyalty to — such figures as the Italian Red Brigades' professor Toni Negri; but he was never himself involved in violence.

After he met Deleuze, Guattari wrote many books. The most important of these, done in collaboration with the Neo-Nietzschean Deleuze, was the influential text *L'Anti-Œdipe* (1972), a violent attack on Lacan's dogmatism. To the majority of Anglo-Saxon readers this, and other books both with and without Deleuze, may seem hard to read; impenetrable and over-abstract. But, with the work of Foucault, Lacan himself and Derrida, it has exerted a powerful effect. Guattari, too, was more humorous and certainly less solemn than many of his French contemporaries. He will be remembered not only for the personal help he gave to individuals as a remarkable non-doctrinaire therapist, but also for his essentially self-critical stance, and his perpetual readiness to admit that he might be, and probably was, wrong. He spent considerable efforts to make his mind up — and then to change it.

MARY BAUTISTA

Mary Concepcion Bautista, chairman of the Philippines government's Human Rights Commission, died on September 20 aged 73.

MARY Bautista, a lawyer, was active in street demonstrations against the late President Ferdinand Marcos, who was ousted in the 1986 uprising that installed Corason Aquino as president. She was later appointed to the Presidential Commission on Good Government, which Mrs Aquino formed to track down the

billions Marcos allegedly embezzled.

Mary Bautista then became the chairman of the human rights commission. In that post, she convinced the armed forces to sign a covenant to respect civil liberties. But she was widely criticised for allegedly not showing the same zeal in pursuing abuses cases during the rule of Mrs Aquino. For her part she often criticised Amnesty International and other rights groups for their complaints of continuing abuses during the Aquino government.

Memorial service

Mr Iain Walker

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Iain Walker was held yesterday at St Bride's, Fleet Street. Canon John Oates officiated. Mr Jon Ryan, News Editor of *The Mail on Sunday*, read the lesson and Miss Kirsty Walker, daughter, read from the works of Sylvia Plath. Mr Stewart Steven, Editor of *The Evening Standard*, gave an address. The Right Rev Graham Leonard pronounced the blessing. Among others present were Mrs Walker (widow), Mr Andrew Walker (son), Mrs Louise Walker (mother), Mr and Mrs Graeme Walker (brother and sister-in-law), Mr Murray Walker (brother), Mr Barbara Good (mother-in-law), Mr John Good (brother-in-law).

Mr Vyvan Harnsworth (representing the chairman), Mrs Mail and General Trust and Mrs Harnsworth, with Sir David English (chairman, Associated Newspapers), Mr Russell Fortham (managing editor, *The Mail on Sunday*), Mr Rod Gilchrist (deputy editor), Mr Ian Pat (managing director), *Daily Mail* with Mr Guy Ziner (director) and Mr Brian Vine (managing editor).

Sir John Junor, Sir Nicholas

Lloyd (editor, *Daily Express* with Mr Paul Potts (deputy editor), Mr Bernard Shrimms (associate editor) and Mr Chris Buckland (assistant editor); Mr Graham Mulley (editor, *The Times*), Mr Ken Donlan (The Sun), Mr Paul Connery (deputy editor, *News of the World*) with Mr Robert Warren and Mr Gerry Brown; Miss Veronica Wadley (assistant editor, *The Daily Telegraph*) with Mr Mark Law (news features editor); Mr Jim Anderson (assistant editor, *Sunday Express* also representing the editor) and Mrs Anderson with Mr Alan Cochrane (executive editor); Mr Brian Hitchen (editor, *The Daily Star*) with Mr Graham Jones (news editor); Mr Arthur Davidson (Mirror Group Newspapers) with Mr Richard Stott (editor, *Daily Mirror*); Mr Nigel Nelson (political editor, *The People* also representing the editor).

Mr Colin Henderson (Press Council Society), Mr Don Short (Solo), Mr M D Hobbs and Mr A Ganger (Epsom College), Mr Roderick Dadak and Mr Patrick Stewart (Swanstone Walsh), Ms Christie Murray, Mrs Stewart, Mrs Jon Ryan, Mr John Jones, Mr David Thompson, Mr and Mrs Graeme Courtney, Mr John Buttersworth, Mr Chester Stern, Mr Peter Dobbin.

Gerald Anthony Hanley, Irish novelist, died on September 7 aged 76. He was born in Ireland on February 17, 1916.

GERALD Hanley's fiction could hardly have been more different from that of his more prolific brother, the late James Hanley, who was his senior by 15 years, and who was regarded by a sizeable minority of critics as one of the twentieth century's most neglected major writers. Gerald was not in that high class (one all on its own in any case), but for all that, at the time of their appearance, his novels, from *The Consul at Sunset* (1951) onwards, tended to obtain more immediate recognition — and sales.

At the age of 16, in 1932, Hanley went to Kenya, then a British colony, to take up farming. In his five years there he was able to assimilate the effects of the most astonishing mix-up of fictions then in existence there: the divided British administrators, the equally divided settlers, the warring tribes — and the bands of merchants with their differing interests. He became aware, too, of the notorious corruption that characterised "Happy Valley".

At the outbreak of war Hanley joined the Royal Irish Fusiliers. He served for seven years, at first in Africa — where he was involved in the Somaliland campaign — and then in Burma as a war correspondent with the 11th East African Division. His first book, *Monsoon Victory* (1946), which received little attention, tells the story of the 14th Division in 1944 in Burma, and its battering by the monsoon in the early summer of that year. He had himself been, as a captain, involved in the division's march down the Khaban Valley and the establishment of a bridgehead at Kalewa which opened the way to Mandalay. After the war and publication of his first book Hanley tried working for the J. Arthur Rank film organisation in India and Pakistan, and for the World Service of the BBC. But he did not much enjoy himself, and in 1950 returned

GERALD HANLEY



to India where he settled for a time at Palampur, at the foot of the Himalayas, in the Punjab. Here he lived a simple life amongst the local inhabitants, in a thatched hut, and here he completed the novel that was to bring him to the attention of the reading public. *The Consul at Sunset* was published by Collins in 1951, and was greeted with enthusiastic reviews from almost every quarter. He never bettered it. It is set in an outpost in Ethiopia, during the second world war. There is a tribal dispute about the use of water-holes. The chiefs oppose not only each other but the Italian and the British forces. The settlement of the dispute lies in the hands of white men, none of whom is truly adequate — or possibly this to complex situation. There was later some dispute about the "political correctness" of what was taken to be Hanley's attitude, but in fact he idealises no one, not the native inhabit-

ants, and certainly not the political officer or the "weak liberal". His army men, in particular a colonel of the old school, do at least measure up to events, but the book ends with their own recognition that these will soon be beyond them. The colonel is a figure such as is sometimes given prominence in the novels of Conrad: a man of personal integrity, but of limited insight, who performs the task that has to be performed, and tends to lose self-respect by his devotion to it.

Although Africa remained the terrain upon which Hanley was most effective, he was interested in India and what he believed might come out of it. "From India," he wrote, "will certainly come some new kind of civilisation in which the best of the past and the present will be mingled." He inevitably became disappointed; but he continued to explore the effects of the colonial and post-colonial situation on the individual conscience in a

manner much influenced by his understanding of Indian philosophy and religion. However, his one travel book, *Warriors and Strangers* (1971), a lucid and much praised study, dealt with Africa. Previously a critic in the (then anonymously written) *Times Literary Supplement* had written of his style as "highly sensuous, strongly charged with muscular effort, tactile impressions, gleams of intense vision" — and nowhere was this more apparent than in *Warriors and Strangers*, which could be reprinted now, even when so much of what it describes has dated, with little loss.

Both *The Year of the Lion* (1953) and *Drink of Darkness* (1955) are set in Africa: the latter in particular reflects the "Happy Valley" mentality of ignorant and mostly inefficient people bent on asserting an imagined prestige in a situation to which they have deliberately blinded themselves. In *The Journey Home* (1957) Hanley did try an Indian setting: a state in the Himalayas after partition is exposed as the plaything of corrupt leaders. But, perhaps because his sense of reality clashed with his quietist ideals, this was a weaker novel. Succeeding fiction remained competent and readable, but added little. All his novels, however, were outstandingly well written, even if the later ones are a little monotonous and feeble in the portraits of women which they offer. One always had the impression, if faintly at first, that Hanley did not quite know how to place women in his scheme of things, which depended greatly on the exercise of a Conradian integrity and devotion to the job in hand: occasionally they were seen as tempting and even hideous distractions from the true path, and men's sometimes violent affection for them as an irritating feature of the cosmic scheme.

Hanley, who returned to Ireland, had a hand in the script — a vast improvement on Jack Hunter's novel — for the film *The Blue Max* (1966), and also wrote a radio play (1962) called *A Voice from the Top*.

PROFESSOR ERNEST STAHL

Ernest Stahl, Taylor Professor of German Language and Literature and fellow of The Queen's College, Oxford, 1959-69, died at his home in that city on September aged 89. He was born in Scekall in the Orange Free State on December 10, 1902.



ERNEST Stahl was the doyen of German studies at Oxford. He will be remembered with affection by those fortunate enough to have been tutored by him at the Queen's College and Christ Church, to have attended his university lectures or simply to have known him as a friend. Stahl was not content to be just an academic. He translated Goethe's *Faust* with Louis MacNeice, although he did not say much about it and he dined a few jars with Dylan Thomas.

Ernest Ludwig Stahl studied English, German and history at the universities of Capetown, Oxford, Cologne, Berlin and Heidelberg. That training made him as much at home in the historical approaches favoured in Germany at the time as in the Anglo-Saxon preference for close attention to specific authors and texts.

After a year as a lecturer at the University of Berlin, where he published his thesis on *Bildungsroman* and *Bildungsroman*, he became an assistant lecturer in German at Birmingham. He went to Oxford as a lecturer in 1935. Ten years later he was appointed reader in German there and a student of Christ Church. From 1959 to 1969 he was Taylor Professor of German and fellow of The Queen's College, with a succession of visiting professorships in the USA between 1956 and 1970.

His publications included studies of Hölderlin's symbolism, books on the plays of Schiller and Kleist, editions of Goethe's *Werther*, *Iphigenie* and *Tasso*, Lessing's *Emilia Galotti* and Rilke's *Duino Elegies*. His inaugural lecture at Oxford was "Creativity, a theme from the *Duino Elegies* and *Faust*".

He gave great encouragement to his students, especially if their passions happened to coincide with his own. There was never any trace of condescension: he would respond with the same interest and forbearance to the weekly essays read to him, though these were likely to be far more opinionated than anything he would ever allow himself to write. Dutiful

student performances were turned into engrossing occasions.

His lectures on 18th century German literature, close to his early concern with the religious and philosophical origins of the German *Bildungsroman*, were stimulating enough to draw students out of their literary shells and guide them to new areas of reading. It was his gift of sympathetic response, to texts and ideas as much as to his pupils and friends, that made him the outstanding teacher he was.

He was disinclined to talk about himself, especially to his students. His circle of friends was one of artists and writers who could be as bohemian as the painter Gerald Wilde — reputed to be the model for Joyce Cary's Gully Gimson. Many were the denizens of that second literary university, the pubs of Soho.

Ernest Stahl was most likely to be remembered beyond the circle of his surviving pupils and friends for his translation, in collaboration with Louis MacNeice, of *Faust*, which remains one of the liveliest versions in English of the play. Again he rarely spoke about his part in this work, which he left out of his list of publications in *Who's Who*; but MacNeice recorded his debt to the "constant advice from Stahl", without which he would have "been lost", and to Stahl's "scholarship and gift of interpretation".

It was the same gift of interpretation and his joy in the diversity of persons, things and ideas that made Ernest Stahl much more than a specialist in his academic field.

St Paul remained observant Jew, study says

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ST PAUL did not think of himself as a Christian and continued to be an observant Jew, according to a report published today.

The study, from the Council of Christians and Jews, says that it is unclear whether Jesus claimed to be the Messiah and that the gospels have "grossly distorted" the teaching of the Pharisees, the forerunners of today's rabbis. The polemic in the gospels dates from the political problems of the first century, it claims, and is not based on theological disagreements between Jews and Christians.

The Rev Marcus Braybrooke, an ordained Anglican minister who wrote the report, says St Paul was writing at a time when gentiles might have believed they could only become acceptable to God by becoming Jews.

St Paul believed a new covenant had been made by which gentiles were also just-

fied through faith in Christ. His "conversion" on the road to Damascus was more a "commission" to turn the gentiles from darkness to light, Mr Braybrooke argues.

He says that St Paul probably did not think of himself as a Christian. "Paul seems to have remained an observant Jew, although his mission to the gentiles may have entailed some compromises — for example, eating with gentiles."

Mr Braybrooke condemns the distortions of theology by which, for centuries, Jews were blamed for the death of Jesus — the so-called charge of "deicide". The gospels seem to shift the blame from Pilate, although historically, Jesus was killed by crucifixion, which was a Roman penalty.

Mr Braybrooke says the prejudice that the Jews killed Jesus, one of the arguments which underpinned teachings that culminated in the Nazi holocaust, may be present still

among those whose knowledge of Christian teaching is based on Sunday schools of 30 years ago.

The Pharisees, contrary to much Christian teaching, made a creative contribution towards understanding God, he says, adding that Jesus, portrayed in the gospels as hostile to the Pharisees, was in fact close to them in his teaching.

The report is the latest in a series of publications to question aspects of Christianity and look behind the surface meaning of New Testament scripture. In *Jesus*, the novelist A.N. Wilson says Jesus was not born of a virgin and not raised from the dead. In *Jesus The Man*, the Australian theologian Barbara Thiering argues that Jesus was a divorced father of three. *Live from Golgotha*, a novel by Gore Vidal, portrays St Paul as a homosexual.

Mr Braybrooke's study

stands out, however, as one which is not seeking to undermine orthodox Christianity but to place it on a better footing with its Jewish parent. The Council of Christians and Jews, whose six presidents include the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and the Chief Rabbi as well as the Archbishop of Canterbury, is attempting to demolish any remnant of anti-Jewish teaching by the churches, promote better understanding and uphold the ethical teachings common to both religions.

An anti-Semitic editor has been arrested in Russia following the publication in his paper, *Russkoye voskresenye*, of an article titled *The Murder of Christian Babies by Jews*, according to the Institute of Jewish Affairs.

A New Look (Council of Christians and Jews, 1 Demington Park Road, London NW6 1AX)

APPRECIATIONS

Lt-Cdr Dennis Copperwheat

IT IS a good story but not true that Lt-Cdr Copperwheat, GC, (obituary, September 14) returned to the burning ship in Grand Harbour, Malta, when the scouting charges failed to go off and "was still on deck, surrounded by fire and minor explosions when the charges went off — lifting him bodily into the air and nearly killing him".

Copperwheat gave an interview for the BBC in November 1942, just after his George Cross was gazetted, when he explained how he scouted the ship from the jetty but inadvertently blew himself up as well. "While we were working there was terrific heat," he said, "and ammunition was exploding all over the place, but everything was ready in a

very short time. When we started off for the jetty we found that our electric cable was too short, so we had to junction a piece more on. Having finally got ashore, I looked around for a sheltered place from which to fire the charge and escape the blast. The cable was rather short, but it just reached the corner of a building. Having sent the men to shelter I touched the ends of the leads on to the battery, but NOTHING happened. I got from under my shelter and checked up and found that I was not holding the end of the "earth" connection. So pleased was I to find this that I touched the correct leads on the battery without getting back in the shelter. However, I got there quickly enough, because the force of the explosion threw me in!"

John Winton

Viscount Muirshiel

APPROPOS your sympathetic obituary of Viscount Muirshiel (obituary, August 21), allow me to add a small footnote to history which provides a different slant to MacLay's leaving the Government.

On the night which has been called the "Night of the Long Knives", the only occasion when a prime minister of Britain dismissed seven ministers in one fell swoop, I dined at the old Conservative Club in London and before I left, rather late, I noted from the tuckers-tape that MacLay had been made a Companion of Honour.

Walking down Jermyn Street on the way to Piccadilly Circus I ran into MacLay walking in the opposite direction. Having known him slightly at Winchester, I greeted him and offered him my sympathy on the plight in which he found himself. He was obviously depressed and answered to the effect: "Yes, it's a bit hard." I then said: "But



congratulations on your Honour."

MacLay looked so puzzled that I said: "You have been made a Companion of Honour."

"Oh, have they given me that?" — his exact words — he replied. We said goodnight and parted.

I was so astounded by the episode that it made an indelible impression on my memory.

E. F. Aglen

Sir Robert Micklethwait

MAY I refer to the obituary of Sir Robert Micklethwait (September 16)? You mention his publication of *The National Insurance Commissioners* in 1976. You say that this was published as a paperback by Hamlyn. In fact, the book was the published version of the Hamlyn lectures, for which he was invited to be the lecturer for that year and which was a very distinguished addition to the series of annual lectures, now well over 40. They were published by Sweet & Maxwell and were delivered in the University of Edinburgh.

I thought that, being a matter of record, it was worth



bringing this matter to your attention.

Martyn C. Gower

SEPT 23 ON THIS DAY 1955

This tribute was written by Alan Pitt Robbins, at one time Home News Editor on the paper.

WIT AND WISDEN

IN MEMORIAM PARDON — Sydney H. Pardon, born Sept. 23, 1855, died Nov. 20, 1925. Editor of *Wisden's* 1891 to 1925. A splendid journalist and a great sportsman — cricketer and golfer.

Tribute is paid on the front page of *The Times* this morning to the memory of Sydney H. Pardon, who was born a hundred years ago to-day. Although it is a few months short of thirty years ago since he died his name is remembered with affection and gratitude wherever cricket is played, and wherever *Wisden's Cricketers Almanack* is studied by lovers of the game who look upon it with awe as one of the most complete reference books ever placed upon the market.

"S.H.P." who combined for some years the positions of Editor of *Wisden's*, Cricketer Correspondent of *The Times*, and a partner in the Cricket Reporting Agency, established a unique individual position in cricket. As far as his closest friends knew, he had never played the game in his life. But he became the recognised authority on the game, whom county captains and even the M.C.C. were glad to consult. His descriptive writing was admirable and he had an uncanny knack of picking out the promising young player. To be selected as one of the five hopefuls of the season in *Wisden's* was an honour greatly prized. On the first occasion that Pardon saw Victor Trumper his innings consisted of six balls only, but at the end of it Pardon was convinced that he had seen the greatest batsman that Australia had ever produced. When Sir Jack Hobbs made his first appearance for Surrey Pardon wrote in *Wisden's* that there was a new player "from whom a great deal

can be expected and who can be regarded as the best batsman brought forward for years."

In those days writers on cricket had not to face the competition of commentators on the air. Pardon would not have made a success at broadcasting. His voice was too gentle and his sight was so poor that he could not follow cricket without the most powerful glasses. He would probably have been impatient with those who were compelled to take snap decisions on a meritorious batting, bowling, or fielding performance. He preferred to form more leisurely judgments, and events rarely proved him to be wrong, as any who care to read the Editor's notes in successive issues of *Wisden's* will discover. It is a coincidence that John Wisden first opened his "cricket and cigar depot" in London in the year of Pardon's birth. He launched his *Almanack* in 1864. Pardon took over the editorship in 1891 and held it until his death in 1925. One of his greatest friends, happily still with us, was Sir Pelham Warner, who wrote after his death that on all questions which agitated the cricket world his views were always judicious and that he never wrote an unkind word about a cricketer because, although criticism was sometimes imperative, the charitable touch was never wanting and nor was his sense of humour.

But, although cricket was both his business and his hobby, it was always Pardon's profoundest boast that he had written special articles for *The Times* on four widely different subjects — cricket, the drama, opera, and horse racing. It was the writer's privilege to invite him to write a series of seven special articles on the theatre. They appeared in August and September of 1920 under the general title, "Fifty Years of the Stage. Some Memories." Those memories ranged from a production of *As You Like It* at the Old Imperial Theatre in Westminster in 1880 to the "forgotten jubilee" of the first production of Tom Robertson's comedies in 1865.

BUSINESS TIMES

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TODAY IN BUSINESS

FOR SALE?



The housing market should start turning following the latest interest rate cut, but any recovery will be slow
Page 21

REFUND

Depositors in the collapsed Savings and Investment Bank may receive payments from the Manx government
Page 19

DEMOLISHED



Tarmac is cutting the number of new houses it builds as Britain's biggest housebuilder loses £15.1 million
Page 19, Tempus 20

PAY SQUEEZE

British managers' pay increased by 6 per cent over the past six months, the lowest annualised rise for 25 years
Page 19

EURO GROWTH



Hays unveiled a small rise in first-half profits and is looking to Europe for future expansion
Page 18

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7080 (-0.0045)
German mark 2.5449 (-0.0007)
Exchange index 83.3 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1910.1 (+22.3)
FT-SE 100 2586.0 (+25.9)
New York Dow Jones 3288.41 (-32.42)*
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 18282.72 (+216.48)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 9%
3-month interbank: 9.5%
3-month eligible bills: 9.5%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 2.75%
3-month Treasury Bill: 2.93-2.92%
30-year bonds: 9.75-9.70%

CURRENCIES

London: \$1.7088
DM2.5435
Sfr1.2235
FFfr.7060
Yen121.20
ECU: £0.781359
ECU1.278821
New York: \$1.7088
DM1.4895
Sfr1.3005
FFfr.1035
Yen121.20
SDR: £0.84827
SDR1.196140
London Forex market close

GOLD

London: \$347.50
Close \$350.40-350.90
\$205.00-206.00
New York: \$349.95-350.45*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$20.35/bbl (\$20.20)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 138.9 August (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Britain undercuts German interest levels

Sterling holds its own after base rate cut

By COLIN NARBROUGH AND LINDSAY COOK

THE pound tumbled initially to a new low against the mark, then recovered most of its fall, after the Bank of England pared its base rate by a full percentage point to 9 per cent, taking short-term British rates below their German equivalents for the first time in 11 years.

The government had sought to undershoot the Bundesbank's key lending rates since joining the exchange-rate mechanism in October 1990, but had not succeeded, despite this year pushing British inflation below that of Germany. Germany's lombard rate is currently 9.5 per cent.

Although a base rate cut had been anticipated, the stock market was encouraged by the move. The FT-SE 100 index climbed 36.7 at its best, before easing back to close at 2,586.0, up 25.9 on the day.

Sterling, comfortable until the 10 am base rate announcement, fell to DM2.5160 by mid-afternoon but recovered sharply to DM2.5449 by the official 4pm close, only fractionally below Monday's finish.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, underlined his continued commitment to fighting inflation with a warning that interest rates would be raised, if government inflation objectives were at risk. He said the slowdown in inflation conditions justified the rate cut. The Bank of England later announced a new index-linked bond issue to underline the authorities' confidence in its counter-inflation policy outside the ERM.

Despite a base rate at its lowest for four years, and worse-than-expected trade

data for August, City analysts said the pressure on sterling was not strong. David Simmonds, currency economist at Midland Montagu, said there was a reasonable amount of two-way buying. "It appears some people think that sterling may be worth holding." Many forecasts expect a further rate cut ahead of the Conservative party conference next month.

Against the dollar, the pound showed some gains during the day, but closed about half a cent lower in London at \$1.7080, after the American currency rallied against the mark. Sterling's trade-weighted index moved down 0.3 to 83.3.

The commercial banks reacted quickly to the rate cut. Citibank lowered its base rate to 9 per cent, while the Abbey National bank said it intended to lower its mortgage rates by about 0.75 per cent.

Building societies also responded by reducing mortgage rates by 0.75 per cent. The smaller reduction for homebuyers is intended to restore lender's margins and to allow their savings rates to remain competitive. The Leeds Permanent, the fifth-largest society led the way and all other major lenders are expected to fall into line. The Leeds needed to set a new rate quickly as its year end is next week and it will then have to set the payments for the 450,000 borrowers on its annual review system.

National Savings withdrew all its guaranteed products paying a tax-free rate of 7.5 per cent last night. It also announced reductions for its variable rate accounts of 1 per cent. The fifth index-linked certificates remain on

sale paying a guaranteed 4.5 per cent on top of index-linking. The move by National Savings made it easier for building societies to cut mortgage rates.

Last month, following two consecutive months of investment outflow, building societies attracted net receipts of £327 million. This was largely due to National Savings cutting its savings rates and not having a large section of its product range available for half of the month.

The £327 million inflow was the highest monthly figure since October last year. Gross mortgage lending increased to £4.3 billion last month, from £3.7 billion in July, as some buyers rushed to beat the August 19 end of the stamp duty moratorium. New commitments at £2.4 billion in August were 30 per cent lower than in July.

Mark Bolat, director general of the Building Societies Association, said special factors were largely responsible for the savings turnaround. "Firstly, the reluctance to purchase new registration cars helped to limit the pace of withdrawals. In addition, proceeds from increased sales of inherited property prior to the end of the stamp duty holiday are likely to have found their way into building society accounts during August. The recent decline in returns offered on National Savings products is also likely to have had some influence."

Payments for the final instalment for regional electricity shares are likely to reduce the inflow for September.

Rates fall, page 1
Comment, page 2
The real world, page 21

Trade gap widens sharply after jump in imports

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A SURGE in imports widened Britain's trade gap sharply in August, according to government figures, which showed the foreign trade picture continuing to worsen despite the absence of an economic recovery.

The underlying deterioration was most marked. The deficit on visible trade, excluding erratic items such as aircraft and gems as well as oil, expanded from £1.36 billion in July to £1.68 billion last month, the biggest shortfall for two years.

The government had expected the prolonged and severe recession to reduce the current account deficit to £6.5 billion this year. But, after the first eight months, the deficit has already climbed to £7.84 billion and looks set to rise in coming months.

The lower pound than Britain's exit from the exchange-rate mechanism last week has delivered should slow imports, but only after a considerable lag, while exports should become more competitive. However, in the short-term, sterling's devaluation is expected to cut the value of exports, while import prices will rise, thereby widening the trade deficit.

Lower interest rates are also expected to increase demand for foreign goods as British industry's capacity has been reduced by the recession. The diminished pound is not expected to

contribute much towards improving the trade balance for some time, given the sluggishness in its chief export markets.

The current account, which covers visible trade and "invisibles", such as financial services, shipping and travel, showed a deficit of £1.08 billion in August, up from £1.02 billion in July. This reflected a pick up in visible exports from £9.92 billion in July to £10.02 billion in August, while exports rose only slightly to £8.84 billion.

Invisibles, which have traditionally yielded a handsome surplus, are now projected to be showing a monthly surplus of just £100 million, down from the £200 million expected earlier.

In volume terms, imports, excluding oil and erratic items, climbed to an all-time high in August. In the latest three months, this measure showed a rise of 1 per cent to stand 7.5 per cent higher than a year ago. The three-month measure indicated export volumes falling 1.5 per cent in the latest three months for a year-on-year drop of 0.5 per cent. The Central Statistical Office, whose data have pointed to rising exports in previous months, now believes the improvement has petered out.

City economists, surprised by the size of the August trade gap, expect the current account deficit to continue to

widen. If the economy starts to recover, the fear is that a ballooning deficit will again exert downward pressure on the pound.

Ian Harrett, the chief economist at Strauss Turnbull, said that this once again highlighted the current account deficit poses a threat to the pound, which the government has chosen to ignore.

Comment, page 21

Price stability is still priority

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY IN WASHINGTON

THE government said that it would remain absolutely committed to the "progressive achievement of price stability", but recognised that exchange-rate mechanism membership had kept interest rates in Britain "above the levels that would have been appropriate on domestic grounds".

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, said in Washington that the decision to float sterling, "emphatically did not represent a shift in the fundamental orientation of British policies". The government would now try to strengthen co-operation with other European countries to "create a conducive environment for growth and stability".

Mr Leigh-Pemberton,

speaking in place of Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, who returned early to the UK, said that government policy would be based on five principles: price stability, fiscal responsibility, "sustainable" exchange rates, strengthening market forces, and working to liberalise world trade. He said that fiscal responsibility would mean confirming the objective of balancing the government's budget over the course of an economic cycle. This formulation hinted at a substantial tightening of fiscal policy, compared with pre-devaluation Treasury statements, which had frequently referred to the objective of abiding by the fiscal targets agreed at Maastricht. The treaty recommended

budget deficits no greater than 3 per cent of gross domestic product. The difference between this goal and a zero deficit over the cycle would be equivalent to cuts of about £18 billion annually in the public sector borrowing requirement over the long term.

The Governor's comments on exchange rates confirmed the see-change that had occurred in official thinking as a result of last week's events. "If excessive currency fluctuations have disadvantages, so too do fixed exchange rates." He added that exchange rates could not be ignored and policies aimed simply at domestic objectives. "The exchange rate will always be a discipline on policymakers, and it is a discipline we must respect."

The treaty recommended

cut in German rates. Expectations have been growing of an imminent rise in French short-term interest rates to avoid a realignment. Economists in London have expressed the fear that a rise in French interest rates would increase pressure on sterling and reduce the scope for further rate cuts. At the meeting in Washington, Michel Sapin and Jacques de Larosiere, the French finance minister and central bank governor, were said to have appealed for support for the beleaguered franc from Helmut Schlesinger and Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president and his deputy.

But the German side seemed to give no indication of an early cut in interest rates, confining themselves to verbal expressions of support.

Herr Tietmeyer said he did not see the need for any further ERM realignment, adding that "we have already done what we should".

Later in the day, heavy selling pressure against the franc, peseta, punt and escudo again built up. By the time official trading ended in Paris, the franc was back on its floor.

Leading article, page 13
Comment, page 21



Next in line: David Jones yesterday, who reported a restoration of the group's fortunes

Next thrives on old formula

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

NEXT, one of the high street's earliest casualties in the current recession, has restored its interim dividend after an impressive rise in sales, given the continuing shortage of funds among consumers.

David Jones, the chief executive, says the 310 Next shops took 13.6 per cent more in the six months to the end of July, with 4.1 per cent less selling space, which helped lift pre-tax profits from £200,000 a year ago to £8.3 million. The interim dividend, passed last year, returns at 0.5p a share.

Mr Jones, who has closed unprofitable shops, improved stock management and refocused product lines to restore the group's fortunes, says that sales stability, fiscal responsibility, "sustainable" exchange rates, strengthening market forces, and working to liberalise world trade.

Mr Jones says "spares us an advertising budget", almost doubled profits.

Next shares, 10p at the

beginning of 1991, rose 4p to 103p yesterday.

George Davies, ousted inventor of the Next concept, left "a good idea and a strong brand," Lord Wolfson, the Next chairman, said. The group has consequently been able to recapture its customer base, simply by returning to the original formula of offering bright, co-ordinated designs to ABC customer who wants good, stylish clothes at affordable prices.

The group's debt problems eased with the sale of Grattan, the mail order house, to Otto Versand, the German group, for £165 million. Borrowings at Club 24, the finance subsidiary, fell sharply again, from £124 million to £78 million, reflecting the transformation into a commission-based debt service business. "We no longer have to worry about banks and firefighting," Lord Wolfson said.

The figures include a

£500,000million loss on Next's other activities, as profits at the UK and Maltese manufacturing interests were outweighed by a loss on Callscan, its North American computer service business.

Tempus, page 20

Tempus, page 20

BASE RATE CHANGE

Union Bank of Switzerland, London

announces that

with effect from the close of business

on 22nd September, 1992

its Base Rate was reduced from

10% PA to 9% PA.



Union Bank of Switzerland, PO Box 428,
100 Liverpool Street, London EC2M 2RH.
Incorporated in Switzerland with limited liability.

Hill Samuel Base Rate

With effect from the close of business

on Tuesday 22nd September, 1992

and until further notice,

Hill Samuel Bank's Base Rate is

9.0% per annum.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to Hill Samuel Bank's Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

HILL SAMUEL BANK

Hill Samuel Bank Limited
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Hays looks for lift from Continent

By COLIN CAMPBELL

HAYS, the business services group, which in June made its first significant acquisition in Europe when it bought a French chilled foods and dry goods distributor, expects at least 10 per cent of this year's profits will be generated from the Continent.

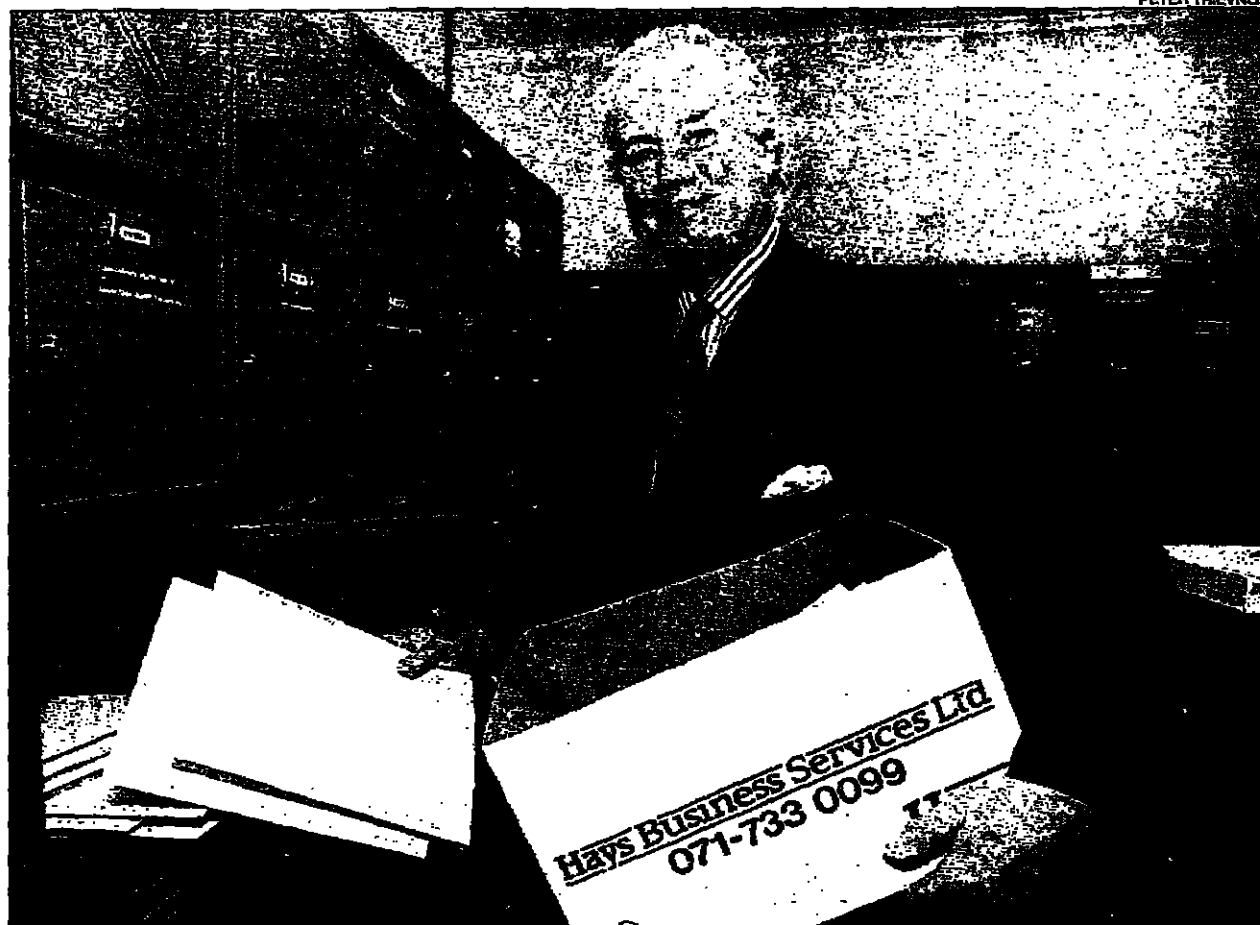
Ronnie Frost, chairman and chief executive, said yesterday he has ambitions to expand Hays' operations further into Europe, especially as he thinks that the British economy will be "tough going" for some while yet.

In the year ended June 30, Hays spent £52.3 million on acquisitions — of which the purchase of Group FRIL, in France, cost £37.5 million — and recorded a pre-tax profit of £57.4 million (£56.8 million).

The final dividend rises from 2.7p to 3.1p a share, making a total 4.6p a share (4p) for the year.

Hays' distribution activities, which include a long-term contract relationship with Waitrose, among others, posted a 15.8 per cent increase in operating profits. Commercial operations, including Bridoc — the overnight mail service — and Data Express, turned in operating profits of £20.8 million (£16.6 million).

Hays was recently awarded a six months trial contract from Barclays Bank for the handling of document exchange, a contract which Mr



Delivering the goods: Ronnie Frost, the chairman, reported increased profits at Hays of £57.4 million

Frost hopes will lead to further business with other banks. Hays' personnel interests, essentially concerned with the recruitment of accountants and other professionals, suffered from the recession, however, and saw operating profits fall from £11.6 million to £4.8 million. The division accounts for only 8 per cent of group operating profits. The nation-

wide network was trimmed from 143 to 120 outlets. Mr Frost says Hays remains in a strong financial position, and can weather the remainder of the recession. Mean-

while, the group is actively looking for further acquisitions in continental Europe and in Britain. The shares were virtually unchanged, closing at 184p.

British Fittings slumps to £1m loss

By JON ASHWORTH

BRITISH Fittings, the Birmingham-based pipelines to water-pumps company, crashed £1 million into the red in the first half on the back of a sweeping shake-up in management.

The company swung from a profit of £1.7 million to a pre-tax loss of £1.02 million in the six months to end-June, on turnover of £40.4 million (£42 million). There was a loss per share of 5.11p compared with earnings of 5.07p. The interim dividend has been cut to 0.5p (1.275p).

A golden handshake for Brian Smith, who resigned as finance director in May, is included in exceptional costs of £622,000. Several senior managers have been removed and the workforce has been cut by 10 per cent. About 100 people have lost their jobs.

Michael Bordighi was appointed non-executive chairman in May, splitting the role of Brian Stanton, former chairman and chief executive, who retains the latter role. Cecil Buckett is the new finance director.

Shares in British Fittings crashed from 153p to 105p in May on word of an unexpected pre-tax loss of £3 million last year. The shares fell 15p to 60p yesterday.

Operating profits at the core stockholding and distribution division halved to £1.5 million due to exposure to the construction industry. Margins have been under severe pressure in East Anglia and the West Midlands.

Police investigations are continuing into instances of theft at the non-ferrous metal distribution division in 1990 which resulted in an extraordinary charge of £1.18 million last year. The division made a loss of £348,000 in the first half compared with a profit of £150,000 last time.

Mr Buckett said the case for a restructuring had been overwhelming. "The results and financial controls were not adequate. We believe we've now got a good team together and our core business is sound," he said.

Wolstenholme rises despite turnover drop

WOLSTENHOLME Rink, the printing materials and powdered metals group, has reported pre-tax profits of £1.7 million for the six months to end-June, some 35 per cent up on the first half of 1991. The higher profit came despite a fall in turnover from £27.5 million to £24.7 million and was helped by a first time contribution from PCO, a Dutch printing chemicals company acquired at the end of 1991.

Overseas demand for bronze powder and metallic ink remains encouraging, despite no signs of improvement in UK trading conditions. Tony Rink, chairman, said sales of printing materials were down on last year — offsetting the benefits of a cost savings programme — and that bad debts remained a problem. But full-year profits should show good progress over 1991. A 6.5p interim is being paid, 3 per cent up on last year's 6.3p.

Mucklow steady

A&J MUCKLOW, the property group, held pre-tax profits at £10.85 million (£10.77 million) in the year to end-June despite rising tenant failures and non-renewal of leases. Vacancies at the Salfrey Trading Estate, Birmingham, doubled the vacancy level during the year to 1.15 million sq ft. Benefits gained from rent reviews and new lettings failed to compensate for lower occupancies. Net asset value fell from 158p to 155p a share. A final dividend of 3.103p (3.078p) a share makes a total of 5.925p (5.643p) for the year.

Seafield in the black

SEAFIELD Resources, the British independent oil and gas production and exploration company, in which National Power has a 29.85 per cent stake, has benefited from accelerated production in the Victor gas field and reports pre-tax profits of £838,000 for the six months to end-June. The pre-tax loss in the six months to March 31, 1991, a period which preceded the purchase of a 5 per cent stake in Victor, was £9,000. In line with the company's policy, no dividend is recommended for the interim period.

Lone charge hits Comac

A ONE-OFF charge of £50,000, largely relating to a failed acquisition, has hammered profits at Comac Group, the USM-quoted computer recruitment specialist. Pre-tax profits fell to £43,727 (£186,511) in the six months to end-June on turnover of £4.91 million (£5.27 million). Earnings per share were 0.44p (2.01p). There is no dividend. The acquisition failed to materialise immediately before exchange of contracts and after a great deal of investigative work, the group said. It hopes to pay a dividend at the end of the year.

Norish advances

NORISH, the Irish food services and cold storage group, reports pre-tax profits of £1.2 million (£1.2 million) for the first half of this year, against £1,903,000 last time. There is an unchanged interim dividend of £1.47p on earnings per share of £1.795p (£1.77p). Trading profit was steady at £1.25 million (£1.24 million), but a decline in interest payable, to £245,000 (£237,000), lifted pre-tax profits. The company's British stores, now almost entirely based on consumer goods, achieved good returns despite the recession.

Brake drives ahead in the first half

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

BRAKE Bros, Britain's biggest supplier of frozen foods to the catering industry, nudged pre-tax profits ahead 2.5 per cent in the first half of 1992, from £6.95 million to £7.12 million. Turnover surged more than 22 per cent to £126.4 million, but much of the rise could be attributed to acquisitions.

The interim dividend rises from 1.65p to 1.85p, but the board warns shareholders not to expect a similar rate of increase in the final, which last year was 4.1p. Interim earnings per share rose from 10.1p to 10.3p.

The company continues to invest heavily in the business — partly with borrowed money, which led to an increase in the interim charge. Apart from spending £2.8 million on acquisitions, the group ran up a £9.1 million capital expenditure bill, as it sought to increase capacity and improve the geographical coverage. It is also expanding into chilled food, regarded as a "major area of opportunity" in the medium term.

Cantors to enfranchise non-voters

By MARTIN WALLER

HOLDERS of the non-voting A shares in Cantors, the furniture retailer, are to be enfranchised as part of a tidying-up of the share capital. Voting shareholders will be offered a compensatory scrip issue on the basis of three new shares for every two held and will end up with 16.5 per cent of the enlarged capital. Pre-tax profits for the year to April 25 slipped from £2.5 million to £2.1 million. The final dividend is held at 3p, making 4p (same).

Acquisitive TT Group increases payout

By OUR CITY STAFF

TT GROUP, the acquisitive industrial holding company, lifted pre-tax profits 10 per cent to £7.5 million (£6.8 million) in the six months to June 27, despite a slump in demand for building services. Higher operating profits and lower interest charges made up for static turnover of £78.6 million (£78.3 million). Earnings per share were 6.9p (6.5p) and there is an interim dividend of 2.4p (2.2p). The only division to report a decline in profits was building services. Profitability im-

proved at the packaging and industrial divisions. Shares in the company slipped 7p to 215p in July on news of a proposed merger with AB Electronic Products, an electronic components manufacturer. Talks are continuing. The shares ended at 198p, up 1p, yesterday. The company raised £6.9 million through a placing in June to fund further acquisitions. In July, TT took over Magnetic Materials, at the second attempt, through an agreed £11.8 million offer.

National Westminster Bank

National Westminster Bank announces that with effect from 22 September 1992 its Base Rate is reduced from 10.0% to 9.0% per annum.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to NatWest Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

National Westminster Bank Plc
41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP

BASE RATE

With effect from Tuesday 22nd September 1992 Coutts & Co have reduced their Base Rate from 10% to 9% per annum.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate linked to Coutts Base Rate will be varied accordingly.



Coutts & Co

440 Strand, London WC2R 0QS

The CO-OPERATIVE BANK

BASE RATE CHANGE

With effect from the close of business on Tuesday, 22nd September 1992 Co-operative Bank Base Rate changes from 10.00% p.a. to 9.00% p.a.



CO-OPERATIVE BANK PLC
PART OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

1 Balloon St, Manchester M60 4EP Tel: 061 832 3456

ANZ Grindlays Base Rate

ANZ Grindlays Bank plc announces that its base rate has changed from 10% p.a. to 9% p.a. with effect from close of business 22nd September 1992.

ANZ Grindlays Bank
Private Banking

13 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4LF
Telephone: 0171-830 4811
Member ANZ Group

NEW INTEREST RATE

With effect from 22nd Sept. 1992 Base Rate has been reduced to 9% from 10% p.a.



MIDLAND
The Listening Bank

Member HSBC Group
MIDLAND BANK PLC, 27 FOLKLYNCH, LONDON EC2P 2BX



Girobank plc Base Rate

Girobank announces that with effect from close of business yesterday (22nd September, 1992) its Base Rate was reduced from 10% to 9% per annum

Reg Office: 10 Milk Street London EC2V 8JH
Reg No: 1950000

INTEREST RATE CHANGE

AIB Bank announces that with effect from close of business on 22nd September 1992 its Base Rate was reduced from 10% to 9% p.a.



Bankcentre-Britain, Belmont Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1SA.
Telephone: (0895) 272222
And branches throughout the country.

AIB Bank is the service mark of Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c.
Incorporated in Ireland. Registered Office: Bankcentre, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.
Registered in Ireland. Number 24173.

Notice to Firstdirect customers.

With effect from 22 September 1992 Firstdirect base rate is decreased by 1.0% from 10.0% p.a. to 9.0% p.a.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to Firstdirect base rate are varied accordingly.

Please note the following changes to interest rates:

| Authorised overdraft rate | From | To |
|---------------------------|----------|------------|
| Cheque Account | 18% p.a. | 17.5% p.a. |
| Premier Cheque Account | 13% p.a. | 12% p.a. |
| HomeOwner Reserve | 16% p.a. | 15% p.a. |

first direct
0345 100 100

Firstdirect is a division of Midland Bank plc
Firstdirect, Millthorpe Park Lane, Leeds LS11 0LT.
Tel: 0345 100 100.

Tarmac cuts houses to counter loss

By MATTHEW BOND

TARMAC, Britain's biggest housebuilder and one of the best known names in construction, is to reduce the number of houses it builds by up to 2,000 a year.

The move, which Tarmac hopes will release £100 million of working capital, accompanied news that Tarmac made a pre-tax loss of £15.1 million (£18.2 million profit) in the first half of the year.

The cutback, which will not be completed until the end of

next year, should reduce the number of houses that the group sell each year to around 7,500. But that will still keep it ahead of George Wimpey and Barrat, its nearest rivals.

Tarmac also announced that Sir Eric Fournier, who stepped down as chief executive in February but continued as executive chairman, will become non-executive chairman next year.

Neville Simms, his successor as chief executive, warned there was no sign of any improvement in trading conditions. "In the absence of any expected uplift in the industry's market place in the near term, we are continuing to strengthen the group through our remedial strategy of restructuring, cost control and debt reduction."

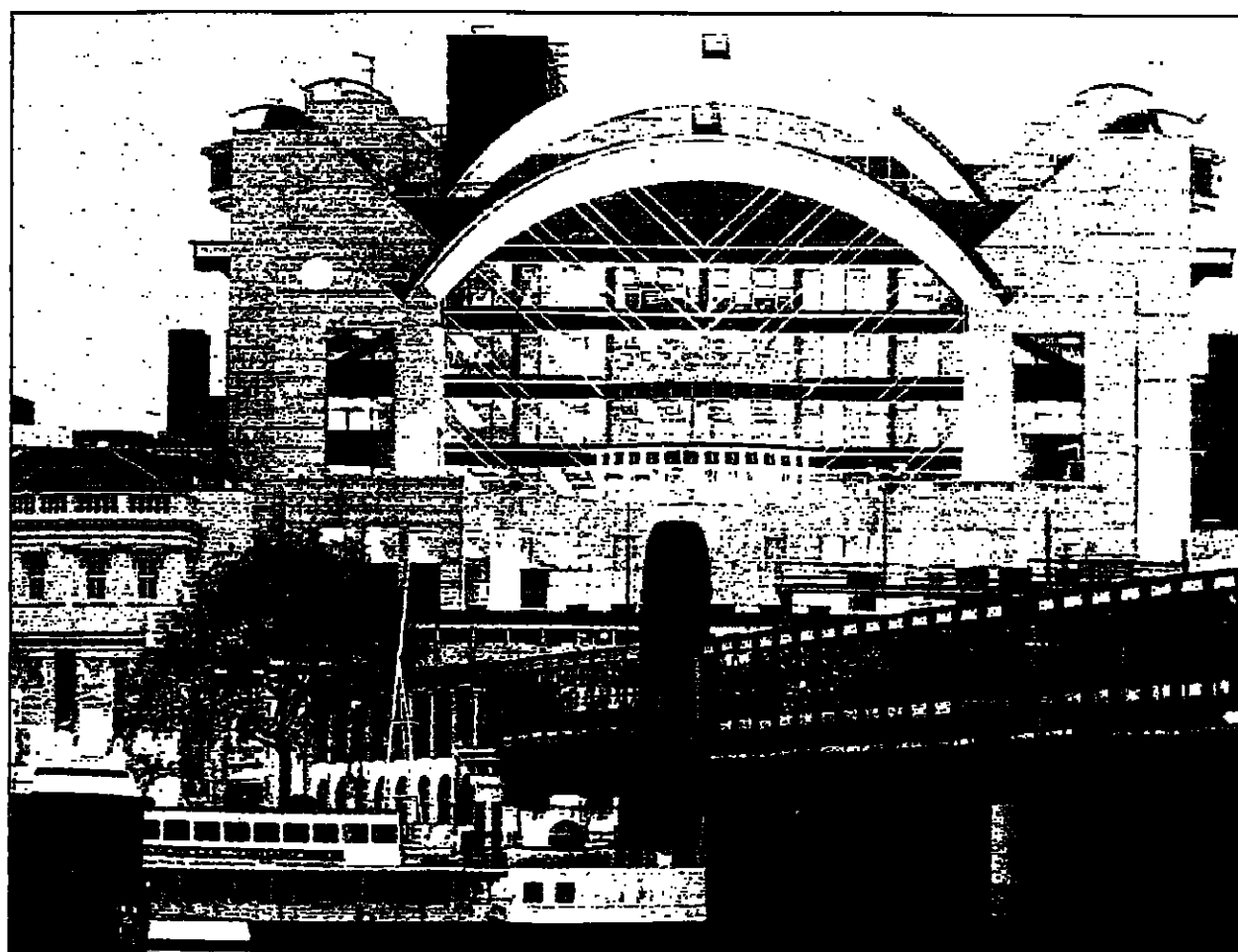
Less than a fortnight ago the company announced plans to close eight brick and concrete block plants. Yesterday's figures showed that building materials made an operating loss of £2.7 million.

Despite the loss Tarmac is paying an unchanged interim dividend of 3p and said that it planned to pay a maintained final of 2.5p, unless there was a further deterioration in the medium term outlook. In the short term, analysts are forecasting losses of well over £100 million this year, caused largely by restructuring.

Mr Simms said the changes he was embarking on followed a "pretty fundamental review" of operations. Disposals worth almost £100 million are already complete and a further £100 million of sales are expected to be agreed by the end of the year. A third £100 million will be raised through disposals. The proceeds of all disposals will be used to reduce group debt from its current level of £744 million.

Operating profits tumbled from £48.6 million to £16.8 million as margins and volumes came under pressure across the group. The interest charge rose from £30.4 million to £31.9 million.

During the half year the company sold 3,578 houses, 14 per cent up on the first half of 1991, at a little changed average selling price of £78,630. But the division's operating profits fell from £9.9 million to £7 million.



Making tracks: Embankment Place, London, is going on the market to help Greycoat cut its debt mountain

Greycoat to sell landmark

By MATTHEW BOND

GREYCOAT, the property group, is to offer for sale Embankment Place, the Terry Farrell-designed, landmark office building that spans the railway tracks at London's Charing Cross station.

The sale comes as Greycoat struggles to reduce its £400 million debt mountain. As part of the same strategy, the company yesterday said that it would not be paying the previously announced final dividend of 2.9p or a dividend due on preference shares next month. Greycoat shares fell from 20p to 13p.

Geoffrey Wilson, chairman, said that since the original announcement in July, two separate property sales had fallen through. The subsequent decision to offer Embankment Place for sale, he said, showed how serious the company was to cut borrowings. "Given the overriding requirement to reduce gearing, there can be no sacred cows." The building has a book value of £185 million. Agents will be looking for buyers for either the whole building, which is fully let, or a half share.

Salary increases for British managers fall to 25-year low

By PATRICIA TEHAN

BRITISH managers' pay rises fell to 5.5 per cent during the last six months, the lowest annualised rise for 25 years.

According to P-E International's *Annual Survey of UK Executive Salaries and Benefits* for the year to July, 1992, median salary increases for executives were 6 per cent, down from 10 per cent for the same period to July 1991. By September, this figure had fallen to 5.5 per cent.

However, according to Michael Smith, head of salary and personnel research at P-E, while middle managers' salaries are still falling, managing directors' pay rises have held steady at 6 per cent during the past few months.

P-E found the rate of inflation was still the most important factor in determining awards. Mr Smith contradicted findings from the CBI last month that claimed the link between pay and inflation had been broken.

Mr Smith expects the downward trend in pay rises to continue until 1994 as inflation falls. P-E surveyed 508 companies and examined 6,073 individual remunera-

tion packages across all executive grades in 18 different industrial groups nationwide.

It found base salary increases in the financial services and durable goods manufacturing sectors were below the all-sector average.

In those sectors, managing directors received 3.9 per cent and 5.3 per cent respectively. Managing directors in the wholesale and retail sector, non-durable goods manufacturing and public services received increases above the average.

Executives in financial services, who had an average 12 per cent pay rise in the year to July 1991, received 9 per cent increases on average.

More directors are not getting rises. The number rose from last year's 7 per cent to 11 per cent. P-E also found

that one in five chief executives earning more than £100,000 did not receive a rise.

The average basic salary for chief executives in companies with turnovers of £500 million a year was £160,000 while those in firms with £50 million turnover received £85,000. Senior managers in the same companies received £49,500 and £33,500 respectively.

Bonus schemes across all company sectors have been squeezed, P-E found. Mr Smith said that roughly a third of bonus schemes were not paying this year.

P-E compared the link between the retail price index and executive pay increases, and found pay rises have remained no more than 2 points above inflation since the recession started in the middle of 1990.

Manx government ready with cash for SIB depositors

By JON ASHWORTH

THE Isle of Man government is prepared for the first time to make *ex gratia* payments to as many as 4,000 depositors in the Savings and Investment Bank (SIB), which collapsed ten years ago with losses of £42 million.

Plans for a £4.45 million package of payments will be debated in parliament next month, following publication of the official report into the SIB debacle.

The Chadwick report, released yesterday, paints a damning picture of lax banking standards and unheeded warnings.

The 500-page report, which cost £1 million and took four years to prepare, says the SIB was insolvent for at least 16 months before it was closed in 1982.

Manx treasury officials withheld information from investigators and failed to spot warning signs, it concludes, but the findings are unlikely to help those depositors who have fought a long campaign for full compensation.

The Manx government has never admitted liability for the SIB collapse. The local banking framework was overhauled in the 1980s following an enquiry by two Bank of England inspectors.

The trial of former SIB employees and agents was abandoned in April 1990 due to the delay in bringing the case to court.

Depositors who placed £10,000 with the SIB will get 50 per cent of their money under the Manx scheme. SIB depositors have had a return of 27.5p in the pound from liquidators, and a further small payment is likely early next year.

The Chadwick report found that warnings of insolvency in the bank went unheeded, returns were not analysed by the Treasury and the SIB was allowed to complete deals in contravention of rules.

It accepted that those at the bank believed they had Manx government support in resisting UK Inland Revenue attempts to gain access to accounts used for tax evasion.

The report said that even after new 1981 regulations, William Dawson, government treasurer, now retired, and Peter Duncan, his commercial relations director, failed to ask questions when rules were contravened.

Investigators said they could not understand how the government could stay satisfied with the bank's financial position in the light of returns made after early 1980.

The report listed "funny money" deals, lack of proper accounting, illegitimate loans, accounts in false names and tax evasion.

MacGregor offers key to BA deal

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

JOHN MacGregor, the Transport Secretary, will today promise the Bush Administration a progressive relaxation of restrictions on American airlines operating in Britain if it approves British Airways' proposed alliance with USAir. But he will also give warning that there can be no liberalisation of the existing Anglo-American aviation agreement if the deal is blocked.

Mr MacGregor's meeting with Andrew Card, the American transportation secretary, is the first high-level attempt to resolve a fast-developing impasse over the deal - and the stakes are very high. By investing \$750 million in the ailing American airline, BA hopes to create a worldwide network that would, for the first time, give it substantial access to the lucrative American market.

Initially Mr Card said he would seek no quid pro quo from the British government in return for approving the alliance. But the administration has been lobbied intensively by United, American and Delta airlines.

CrestaCare resumes dividends

CRESTACARE, the nursing home company that lost £13 million last year and passed the final dividend, returned to profit in the six months to the end of June and is resuming dividends. Pre-tax profits were £312,000 (£970,000). The interim dividend is 0.1p (0.7p) on earnings per share of 0.3p (1.3p).

Turnover rose from £8.5 million to £17.8 million and operating profits from £1.07 million to £1.97 million. But finance costs rose sharply from £101,000 to £1.66 million.

Southern falls

Southern Newspapers, the regional newspaper publisher, spent £549,000 escaping the clutches of four potential hostile bidders last year. Southern suffered a 20 per cent fall in taxable profits to £7 million during the year. A final dividend of 8.25p makes 11.25p (10.5p).

Harrington up

Harrington Kilbride, the magazine publisher that was one of last year's few new arrivals on the stock market, reports a 47 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £422,000. The debut interim dividend is 1.5p.

Elswick cuts

Elswick has reduced the interim dividend from 0.22p to 0.15p despite a rise in pre-tax profits from £1 million to £1.7 million.

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FEARS that the pound's devaluation and subsequent drop in interest rates will result in a rise in the level of inflation, focused attention on index-linked issues.

Gains of up to £4 were recorded as investors continued switching out of the ultra-long end of the market. Dealers said the gains among index-linked issues also helped bring their yield curve into line with the rest of the market.

Index-linked issues are used by investors as a hedge against inflation. To satisfy the latest surge in demand, the Bank of England has issued a further £600 million of Index-Linked Treasury 4½ per cent 2005 at par with a downpayment of £15.

The softening of bank base rates to 9 per cent cheered the short end of the market among conventional issues with rises of about £1.

| 1992 High | 1992 Low | Stock | Price | Yield | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| SHORTS (under 5 years) | | | | | | | | | |
| 100% | 100% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 100% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 99% | 99% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 99% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 98% | 98% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 98% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 97% | 97% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 97% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 96% | 96% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 96% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 95% | 95% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 95% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 94% | 94% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 94% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 93% | 93% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 93% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 92% | 92% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 92% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 91% | 91% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 91% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 90% | 90% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 90% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 89% | 89% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 89% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 88% | 88% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 88% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 87% | 87% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 87% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 86% | 86% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 86% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 85% | 85% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 85% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 84% | 84% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 84% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 83% | 83% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 83% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 82% | 82% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 82% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 81% | 81% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 81% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 80% | 80% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 80% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 79% | 79% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 79% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 78% | 78% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 78% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 77% | 77% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 77% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 76% | 76% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 76% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 75% | 75% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 75% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 74% | 74% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 74% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 73% | 73% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 73% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 72% | 72% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 72% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 71% | 71% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 71% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 70% | 70% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 70% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 69% | 69% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 69% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 68% | 68% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 68% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 67% | 67% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 67% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 66% | 66% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 66% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 65% | 65% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 65% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 64% | 64% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 64% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 63% | 63% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 63% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 62% | 62% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 62% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 61% | 61% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 61% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 60% | 60% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 60% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 59% | 59% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 59% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 58% | 58% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 58% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 57% | 57% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 57% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 56% | 56% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 56% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 55% | 55% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 55% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 54% | 54% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 54% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 53% | 53% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 53% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 52% | 52% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 52% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 51% | 51% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 51% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 50% | 50% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 50% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 49% | 49% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 49% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 48% | 48% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 48% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 47% | 47% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 47% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 46% | 46% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 46% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 45% | 45% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 45% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 44% | 44% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 44% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 43% | 43% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 43% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 42% | 42% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 42% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 41% | 41% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 41% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 40% | 40% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 40% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 39% | 39% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 39% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 38% | 38% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 38% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 37% | 37% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 37% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 36% | 36% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 36% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 35% | 35% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 35% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 34% | 34% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 34% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 33% | 33% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 33% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 32% | 32% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 32% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 31% | 31% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 31% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 30% | 30% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 30% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |
| 29% | 29% | Fixed 12/1/92 | 29% | 13.46 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 1.11 |

Base rate cut gives shares fresh impetus

THE London stock market continued its advance towards the 2,600 level, helped by the confirmation of the cut in bank base rates by one percentage point to 9 per cent. The news gave a shot in the arm to share prices just when they began to show signs of running out of steam following a strong run in the wake of last week's devaluation of the pound.

The FT-SE 100 index recovered from a hesitant start, clawing back a fall of almost 15 points. At one stage, it had extended its lead to almost 40 points, coming within a whisker of the 2,600 mark despite the gloomy news that Britain's trade gap had widened in August. The FT-SE eventually closed 25.9 points up at 2,586.0 after Wall Street showed a 31-point fall in early trading.

Turnover was a healthy 987 million shares. But brokers gave a warning that the volatile conditions may persist for another few days. Market-makers are still nursing short positions, having been caught out by the dramatic turnaround

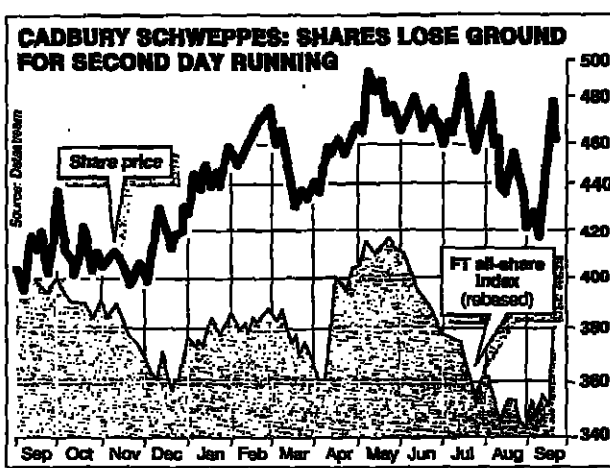
in sentiment during the past week. Fund managers are continuing to find it difficult to trade in any large size, even among the leading shares.

SmithKline Beecham fell 9p to 528p amid claims that Lehman Brothers, the broker, was urging its clients to switch into Wellcome, 24p dearer at 987p.

British Airways put in a late rise, climbing 10p to 302p, as dealers awaited the details of the proposed merger with USAir. There is also talk that BA has received an unofficial go-ahead to bid for Qantas, the Australian airline.

British Aerospace was a volatile market, finishing 1p firmer at 199p before its figures today. Brokers fear they may include substantial write-offs.

Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery and soft drinks group, remained a dull market, moving against the general trend with a fall of 3p to 461p, making a two-day decline of 14p. The shares went ex-dividend on Monday, but dealers have been worried by suggestions that a line of



stock is overhanging the market. The banks seemed pleased with the softening in interest rates. Analysts say that a revival in the economy is likely to lead to a big fall in bad debt provisions. Lloyds rose 15p to 450p, National Westminster 14p to 348p, HSBC 13p to 409p and Barclays 1p to 345p.

Tesco, the supermarket chain, enjoyed an early mark-up, touching 233p, after reporting a 10 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profits. But City analysts were less impressed by the group's performance at a meeting after the figures. They claim that Tesco is struggling to match the sales growth of up to 12 per cent being achieved by its two big rivals, J Sainsbury, up 19p to 456p, and Argyle, 9p better at 335p. Tesco finished 1p cheaper at 224p.

Next, the fashion retailer, appears to be firmly back on the road to recovery with the price adding 3p to 102p following better than expected half-year figures. Pre-tax profit leapt from £200,000 to £8 million with sales during the period improving by 10 per cent. The group says that a provision of £10 million may not now be required.

Storehouse rallied after an initial markdown to finish only 1p lighter at 146p as whispers circulated in the marketplace that it was about to sell part of Habitat, its loss-making furniture business, to Ikea, the Swedish group. Brokers said such a sale would realise between £40 million and £50 million. The company refused to comment.

Tarmac rose 8p to 78p after deciding to maintain the 3p interim dividend despite plunging into the red with pre-tax losses of £15.1 million, against a profit for the corresponding period of £18.2 million. The group has halted new property development. Neville Simms, the chief executive, says there are signs of recovery in America and Europe, but gave warning that

the UK was still affected by recession.

Whitbread A rose 12p to 436p and Whitbread Investment (Whitbread's investment arm) gained 16p to 539p after restructuring their portfolio of shares in various rival brewers to comply with the Supply of Beer Orders. Whitbread Investment has disposed of its holdings of 6.6 per cent of Boddington, unchanged at 174p, 18.9 per cent of Marston, Thompson & Everard, down 3p to 210p, and 3.3 per cent of Devenish, 1p firmer at 240p. Whitbread bought some of the shares from its investment arm. The remainder were sold in the market. As a result, Whitbread has increased its stake in Marston from 5.9 to 8.8 per cent, in Boddington from 5.1 to 8.8 per cent and has bought a 3.3 per cent stake in Devenish.

Queens Moat, the hotels group, fell 6p to 33p as a line of 9.3 million shares went through the market at 32p. By the close, a total of 25 million shares had changed hands.

MICHAEL CLARK

Counter attractions hold progress at Tesco



Food for thought: Sir Ian MacLaurin, of Tesco, which is feared to be slowing down

TESCO was not arguing too vociferously yesterday with the market's perception that it was being outperformed by at least one of the other big three grocers, J Sainsbury. The share prices tell the story. While Sainsbury celebrated the base rate fall with a 19p rise to 456p and Argyle Group, owner of Safeway, advanced 10p to 336p, Tesco was little changed, 1p ahead at 224p.

First half pre-tax profits, ahead of £1 million of property gains, came in 9.7 per cent higher at £251.8 million, while operating margins improved from 6.4 per cent to 6.9 per cent. But like-for-like volume growth was only 2 per cent, below the rate of inflation, and is running at 1 per cent into the second half.

Closer comparison with Tesco's two big rivals, with

different financial year-ends, will have to await their interim results, still more than a month away. But yesterday's figures went some way to justify market fears of a slowdown in Tesco's extraordinary growth over the past five years that has sent the shares back from almost £3 earlier this year.

That success story was achieved by moving Tesco, whose chairman is Sir Ian MacLaurin, away from its earlier humble market niche and closer to the higher-margin territory so effectively occupied by Sainsbury. But Tesco has not entirely shaken off its former customer profile and is still more reliant than its competitors on younger and less affluent consumers.

These consumers have been suffering disproportionately in the recession, while other factors, such as the decision earlier this year by Sainsbury to accept credit cards, will have flattered the performance of Tesco's rivals.

Paul Smiddy, of Kleinwort Benson, is looking for £587 million pre-tax for the company this year. That puts the shares on a forward multiple of about 10.7, which looks good value in comparison with the rest of the sector given Tesco's proven management skills and strong market share. But a re-rating could be some time off.

Tarmac

Tarmac shareholders now know what Neville Simms, seven months into his role as chief executive, has in mind. What they do not yet know is how much his dramatic corporate pruning will cost.

That will be disclosed with the full-year results, when the size of provisions required by such actions as closing eight brick and concrete block works, cutting housing building activity, and retreating from property development will become clear.

Estimates range from huge to enormous. But the 8p share price rise that followed confirmation of pre-tax losses of £15.1 million in the first half suggests that some believe it is a price worth paying. Remember, this is a company that was making profits approaching £400 million three years ago.

The strategy amounts to an attack on debts of £744 million using disposals, reduced working capital and tightly controlled capital expenditure. If it works, the result will be a refocused company with operating profits covering interest charges by over five times, a far remove from the current miserable failure to cover them even once.

A £300 million disposal plan should be two-thirds complete by the year-end, bringing gearing down from its current level of about 60 per cent to about 40 per cent, assuming the company meets

its secondary target of break-even on cash-flow. The sale of three businesses has raised £100 million, while the state of negotiations on a further ten, make the company confident of hitting its target.

The size of this year's loss depends on the size of the provisions. So at 78p, the shares are buoyed by the promise of an improbably maintained final dividend, giving a yield of over 9 per cent, and the prospect of better times some years ahead. Given the uncertainties, there is no rush.

Next

The idea of George Davies is alive and kicking. Shareholders in Next owe at least one debt of gratitude to the founder bundled out after he peppered the air with too many new balls. He left behind a brand name strong enough to reclaim customers once the shops remembered who they were.

The rest of the credit for this recovery story belongs to David Jones and his management, who had the wit to return to the original Next concept. They have been rewarded with pre-tax profits of £8.3 million in the six months ended last July, having barely broken even a year ago, and ample earnings at 2.01p a share to revive the interim dividend payment at 0.5p.

They took a knife to the retail chain early in the recession, and the 310 shops that remain from a peak of 450 bounced back into profit during the period, making £4.1 million against a loss of £1.9 million. Sales 13.6 per cent higher from 4.1 per cent less space underline the return to popularity.

Retail's success was arguably a key factor in Next Directory's failure to meet best expectations, although the almost-doubled £2.7 million operating surplus from mail order was scarcely a disappointment.

The conversion of Club 24 from a money-lender into a fee-based credit service operation should be virtually complete by this time next year, efficiently enough to allow the write-back of the remaining £10 million provision in the annual results due next spring. Repayment of the remaining £71 million Euro-bond issue, with £20 million supplemental interest, will be effected next month from cash resources.

Full-year profit forecasts were being adjusted upwards last night with County NatWest's Kimlan Cook looking for £2.7 million (ignoring the £10 million released provision) to produce earnings of 6.6p given the 10 per cent tax charge, which is as much as the board expects to pay until at least 1995. The shares, on a 15.6 multiple at 103p, merit their new status as best recovery stock in the sector.

New York — Prices were little changed in morning trading after some early weakness. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 0.83 of a point to 3,320. Dealers said that investors were reluctant to take risks, given the persistent volatility in the currency markets.

Chris Wilcox, a dealer at BT Brokerage, said: "Stocks are still uneasy over what is going on in Europe. Everybody is

confused, they just can't handle this global stuff." Strong American housing starts in August gave some support. □ Tokyo — Shares ended firmer, although below their highs, amid hopes that the public funds expected to flow into the market will support prices. Firm futures also helped to lift prices. The Nikkei index rose 216.48 points to 18,282.72. (Reuters)

| 22 Sep | 21 Sep | 20 Sep | 19 Sep | 18 Sep | 17 Sep | 16 Sep | 15 Sep | 14 Sep | 13 Sep | 12 Sep | 11 Sep | 10 Sep | 9 Sep | 8 Sep | 7 Sep | 6 Sep | 5 Sep | 4 Sep | 3 Sep | 2 Sep | 1 Sep | 31 Aug | 30 Aug | 29 Aug | 28 Aug | 27 Aug | 26 Aug | 25 Aug | 24 Aug | 23 Aug | 22 Aug | 21 Aug | 20 Aug | 19 Aug | 18 Aug | 17 Aug | 16 Aug | 15 Aug | 14 Aug | 13 Aug | 12 Aug | 11 Aug | 10 Aug | 9 Aug | 8 Aug | 7 Aug | 6 Aug | 5 Aug | 4 Aug | 3 Aug | 2 Aug | 1 Aug | 31 Jul | 30 Jul | 29 Jul | 28 Jul | 27 Jul | 26 Jul | 25 Jul | 24 Jul | 23 Jul | 22 Jul | 21 Jul | 20 Jul | 19 Jul | 18 Jul | 17 Jul | 16 Jul | 15 Jul | 14 Jul | 13 Jul | 12 Jul | 11 Jul | 10 Jul | 9 Jul | 8 Jul | 7 Jul | 6 Jul | 5 Jul | 4 Jul | 3 Jul | 2 Jul | 1 Jul | 30 Jun | 29 Jun | 28 Jun | 27 Jun | 26 Jun | 25 Jun | 24 Jun | 23 Jun | 22 Jun | 21 Jun | 20 Jun | 19 Jun | 18 Jun | 17 Jun | 16 Jun | 15 Jun | 14 Jun | 13 Jun | 12 Jun | 11 Jun | 10 Jun | 9 Jun | 8 Jun | 7 Jun | 6 Jun | 5 Jun | 4 Jun | 3 Jun | 2 Jun | 1 Jun | 31 May | 30 May | 29 May | 28 May | 27 May | 26 May | 25 May | 24 May | 23 May | 22 May | 21 May | 20 May | 19 May | 18 May | 17 May | 16 May | 15 May | 14 May | 13 May | 12 May | 11 May | 10 May | 9 May | 8 May | 7 May | 6 May | 5 May | 4 May | 3 May | 2 May | 1 May | 30 Apr | 29 Apr | 28 Apr | 27 Apr | 26 Apr | 25 Apr | 24 Apr | 23 Apr | 22 Apr | 21 Apr | 20 Apr | 19 Apr | 18 Apr | 17 Apr | 16 Apr | 15 Apr | 14 Apr | 13 Apr | 12 Apr | 11 Apr | 10 Apr | 9 Apr | 8 Apr | 7 Apr | 6 Apr | 5 Apr | 4 Apr | 3 Apr | 2 Apr | 1 Apr | 31 Mar | 30 Mar | 29 Mar | 28 Mar | 27 Mar | 26 Mar | 25 Mar | 24 Mar | 23 Mar | 22 Mar | 21 Mar | 20 Mar | 19 Mar | 18 Mar | 17 Mar | 16 Mar | 15 Mar | 14 Mar | 13 Mar | 12 Mar | 11 Mar | 10 Mar | 9 Mar | 8 Mar | 7 Mar | 6 Mar | 5 Mar | 4 Mar | 3 Mar | 2 Mar | 1 Mar | 30 Feb | 29 Feb | 28 Feb | 27 Feb | 26 Feb | 25 Feb | 24 Feb | 23 Feb | 22 Feb | 21 Feb | 20 Feb | 19 Feb | 18 Feb | 17 Feb | 16 Feb | 15 Feb | 14 Feb | 13 Feb | 12 Feb | 11 Feb | 10 Feb | 9 Feb | 8 Feb | 7 Feb | 6 Feb | 5 Feb | 4 Feb | 3 Feb | 2 Feb | 1 Feb | 31 Jan | 30 Jan | 29 Jan | 28 Jan | 27 Jan | 26 Jan | 25 Jan | 24 Jan | 23 Jan | 22 Jan | 21 Jan | 20 Jan | 19 Jan | 18 Jan | 17 Jan | 16 Jan | 15 Jan | 14 Jan | 13 Jan | 12 Jan | 11 Jan | 10 Jan | 9 Jan | 8 Jan | 7 Jan | 6 Jan | 5 Jan | 4 Jan | 3 Jan | 2 Jan | 1 Jan | 31 Dec | 30 Dec | 29 Dec | 28 Dec | 27 Dec | 26 Dec | 25 Dec | 24 Dec | 23 Dec | 22 Dec | 21 Dec | 20 Dec | 19 Dec | 18 Dec | 17 Dec | 16 Dec | 15 Dec | 14 Dec | 13 Dec | 12 Dec | 11 Dec | 10 Dec | 9 Dec | 8 Dec | 7 Dec | 6 Dec | 5 Dec | 4 Dec | 3 Dec | 2 Dec | 1 Dec | 31 Nov | 30 Nov | 29 Nov | 28 Nov | 27 Nov | 26 Nov | 25 Nov | 24 Nov | 23 Nov | 22 Nov | 21 Nov | 20 Nov | 19 Nov | 18 Nov | 17 Nov | 16 Nov | 15 Nov | 14 Nov | 13 Nov | 12 Nov | 11 Nov | 10 Nov | 9 Nov | 8 Nov | 7 Nov | 6 Nov | 5 Nov | 4 Nov | 3 Nov | 2 Nov | 1 Nov | 30 Oct | 29 Oct | 28 Oct | 27 Oct | 26 Oct | 25 Oct | 24 Oct | 23 Oct | 22 Oct | 21 Oct | 20 Oct | 19 Oct | 18 Oct | 17 Oct | 16 Oct | 15 Oct | 14 Oct | 13 Oct | 12 Oct | 11 Oct | 10 Oct | 9 Oct | 8 Oct | 7 Oct | 6 Oct | 5 Oct | 4 Oct | 3 Oct | 2 Oct | 1 Oct | 31 Sep | 30 Sep | 29 Sep | 28 Sep | 27 Sep | 26 Sep | 25 Sep | 24 Sep | 23 Sep | 22 Sep | 21 Sep | 20 Sep | 19 Sep | 18 Sep | 17 Sep | 16 Sep | 15 Sep | 14 Sep | 13 Sep | 12 Sep | 11 Sep | 10 Sep | 9 Sep | 8 Sep | 7 Sep | 6 Sep | 5 Sep | 4 Sep | 3 Sep | 2 Sep | 1 Sep | 31 Aug | 30 Aug | 29 Aug | 28 Aug | 27 Aug | 26 Aug | 25 Aug | 24 Aug | 23 Aug | 22 Aug | 21 Aug | 20 Aug | 19 Aug | 18 Aug | 17 Aug | 16 Aug | 15 Aug | 14 Aug | 13 Aug | 12 Aug | 11 Aug | 10 Aug | 9 Aug | 8 Aug | 7 Aug | 6 Aug | 5 Aug | 4 Aug | 3 Aug | 2 Aug | 1 Aug | 31 Jul | 30 Jul | 29 Jul | 28 Jul | 27 Jul | 26 Jul | 25 Jul | 24 Jul | 23 Jul | 22 Jul | 21 Jul | 20 Jul | 19 Jul | 18 Jul | 17 Jul | 16 Jul | 15 Jul | 14 Jul | 13 Jul | 12 Jul | 11 Jul | 10 Jul | 9 Jul | 8 Jul | 7 Jul | 6 Jul | 5 Jul | 4 Jul | 3 Jul | 2 Jul | 1 Jul | 30 Jun | 29 Jun | 28 Jun | 27 Jun | 26 Jun | 25 Jun | 24 Jun | 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30 Feb | 29 Feb | 28 Feb | 27 Feb | 26 Feb | 25 Feb | 24 Feb | 23 Feb | 22 Feb | 21 Feb | 20 Feb | 19 Feb | 18 Feb | 17 Feb | 16 Feb | 15 Feb | 14 Feb | 13 Feb | 12 Feb | 11 Feb | 10 Feb | 9 Feb | 8 Feb | 7 Feb | 6 Feb | 5 Feb | 4 Feb | 3 Feb | 2 Feb | 1 Feb | 31 Jan | 30 Jan | 29 Jan | 28 Jan | 27 Jan | 26 Jan | 25 Jan | 24 Jan | 23 Jan | 22 Jan | 21 Jan | 20 Jan | 19 Jan | 18 Jan | 17 Jan | 16 Jan | 15 Jan | 14 Jan | 13 Jan | 12 Jan | 11 Jan | 10 Jan | 9 Jan | 8 Jan | 7 Jan | 6 Jan | 5 Jan | 4 Jan | 3 Jan | 2 Jan | 1 Jan | 31 Dec | 30 Dec | 29 Dec | 28 Dec | 27 Dec | 26 Dec | 25 Dec | 24 Dec | 23 Dec | 22 Dec | 21 Dec | 20 Dec | 19 Dec | 18 Dec | 17 Dec | 16 Dec | 15 Dec | 14 Dec | 13 Dec | 12 Dec | 11 Dec | 10 Dec | 9 Dec | 8 Dec | 7 Dec | 6 Dec | 5 Dec | 4 Dec | 3 Dec | 2 Dec | 1 Dec | 31 Nov | 30 Nov | 29 Nov | 28 Nov | 27 Nov | 26 Nov | 25 Nov | 24 Nov | 23 Nov | 22 Nov | 21 Nov | 20 Nov | 19 Nov | 18 Nov | 17 Nov | 16 Nov | 15 Nov | 14 Nov | 13 Nov | 12 Nov | 11 Nov | 10 Nov | 9 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Jul | 16 Jul | 15 Jul | 14 Jul | 13 Jul | 12 Jul | 11 Jul | 10 Jul | 9 Jul | 8 Jul | 7 Jul | 6 Jul | 5 Jul | 4 Jul | 3 Jul | 2 Jul | 1 Jul | 30 Jun | 29 Jun | 28 Jun | 27 Jun | 26 Jun | 25 Jun | 24 Jun | 23 Jun | 22 Jun | 21 Jun | 20 Jun | 19 Jun | 18 Jun | 17 Jun | 16 Jun | 15 Jun | 14 Jun | 13 Jun | 12 Jun | 11 Jun | 10 Jun | 9 Jun | 8 Jun | 7 Jun | 6 Jun | 5 Jun | 4 Jun | 3 Jun | 2 Jun | 1 Jun | 31 May | 30 May | 29 May | 28 May | 27 May | 26 May | 25 May | 24 May | 23 May | 22 May | 21 May | 20 May | 19 May | 18 May | 17 May | 16 May | 15 May | 14 May | 13 May | 12 May | 11 May | 10 May | 9 May | 8 May | 7 May | 6 May | 5 May | 4 May | 3 May | 2 May | 1 May | 30 Apr | 29 Apr | 28 Apr | 27 Apr | 26 Apr | 25 Apr | 24 Apr | 23 Apr | 22 Apr | 21 Apr | 20 Apr | 19 Apr | 18 Apr | 17 Apr | 16 Apr | 15 Apr | 14 Apr | 13 Apr | 12 Apr | 11 Apr | 10 Apr | 9 Apr | 8 Apr | 7 Apr | 6 Apr | 5 Apr | 4 Apr | 3 Apr | 2 Apr | 1 Apr | 31 Mar | 30 Mar | 29 Mar | 28 Mar | 27 Mar | 26 Mar | 25 Mar | 24 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COMMENT

Trade will curb pace of recovery

Many economic statistics will be of strictly historic interest in the next few weeks. Not so yesterday's trade figures. The biggest underlying monthly deficit for two years makes the current account outflow £7.8 billion, about 1.8 per cent of output, in the first eight months of the worst year of recession since the Thirties. That shows that sterling needed devaluing. Unfortunately, it also carries a message for the future: the Chancellor cannot afford to press too hard on the accelerator.

Just how sick Britain's trade has become can be gauged from the volume figures, which are most relevant after devaluation. In the latest three months, export volumes, excluding oil and erratic items, were 0.5 per cent up on a year earlier, while imports rose 7.5 per cent. Sterling's fall will immediately increase the balance of payments deficit because worse terms of trade raise the sterling cost of imports before competitive benefits work through. In the past, devaluation has been accompanied by domestic austerity, reducing the initial down-swing of this "J-curve". This time, the economy is given some sustenance. Nigel Pain, of the National Institute, suggests that, after allowing for an improved balance from interest and dividends, a 10 per cent devaluation would worsen the trade figures for about two years, adding at least £2 billion to the £13 billion deficit the institute forecast for 1993.

Anecdotal evidence suggests imports have grown because British suppliers have either gone out of business or had to cut production severely to stem losses. Imports already satisfy about 30 per cent of demand for manufactured goods, so a rapid rise in consumer demand, which might occur if interest rates were cut to 6 per cent by the year-end, would focus on imports. Unless the stimulus is gradual and initially modest, allowing British suppliers time to adjust to a recovery that had seemed only a distant prospect, the trade gap will run out of control and quickly become a constraint on policy. Recovery might have to be nipped in the bud by 1994, or sterling allowed to continue on a downward spiral that would raise genuine inflationary worries.

These effects will not be seen initially. Meaningful trade figures will not be published for at least six months and probably nearer a year after the single European market comes into force, because the government did not bother to provide a link between old Customs-based figures and new VAT returns. This will provide a great temptation to Mr Lamont or his successor. If he falls for it, policy might have to endure another U-turn when the truth comes out.

House sense

For far too many months, the missing ingredient in a demoralised housing market has been confidence. Yesterday's news of lower mortgage rates offers a significant prospect of a sea change. The government should capitalise on a rare opportunity both to ensure that confidence does return and to remove the pointless subsidy of mortgage interest payments. Provided base rates are cut only gradually, the government can now give a higher priority to developing a domestic monetary policy appropriate to the recession. Hopefully, a virtuous circle of events might now develop, where cheaper money sparks activity in the housing market, bringing purchases of associated items and growing confidence that the market will recover further.

A temporary raising of mortgage tax relief would ensure the beginning of this virtuous circle and enable relief to be progressively phased out over a number of years. The government will certainly be able to find better uses for £6 billion than in a subsidy which merely inflates house prices and is thus both wasteful and counterproductive in the long run.

Matthew Bond,
Lindsay Cook and
George Sivell look
at the prospects of
a turnaround in the
housing market

Somewhere deep within the bowels of the Treasury lies a computer programme that shows what happens to house prices when base rates are cut. It has calculated in the past that 1 point off base rates results in a 3 per cent real increase in house prices if maintained for a year and a 6 per cent real increase in house prices after three years.

And in the basement of the Bank of England there lies yet another piece of software similar to the Treasury's. It tells you that a 1 point cut in base rates yields a real 6 per cent increase in the first year and an 11-12 per cent real increase after three years.

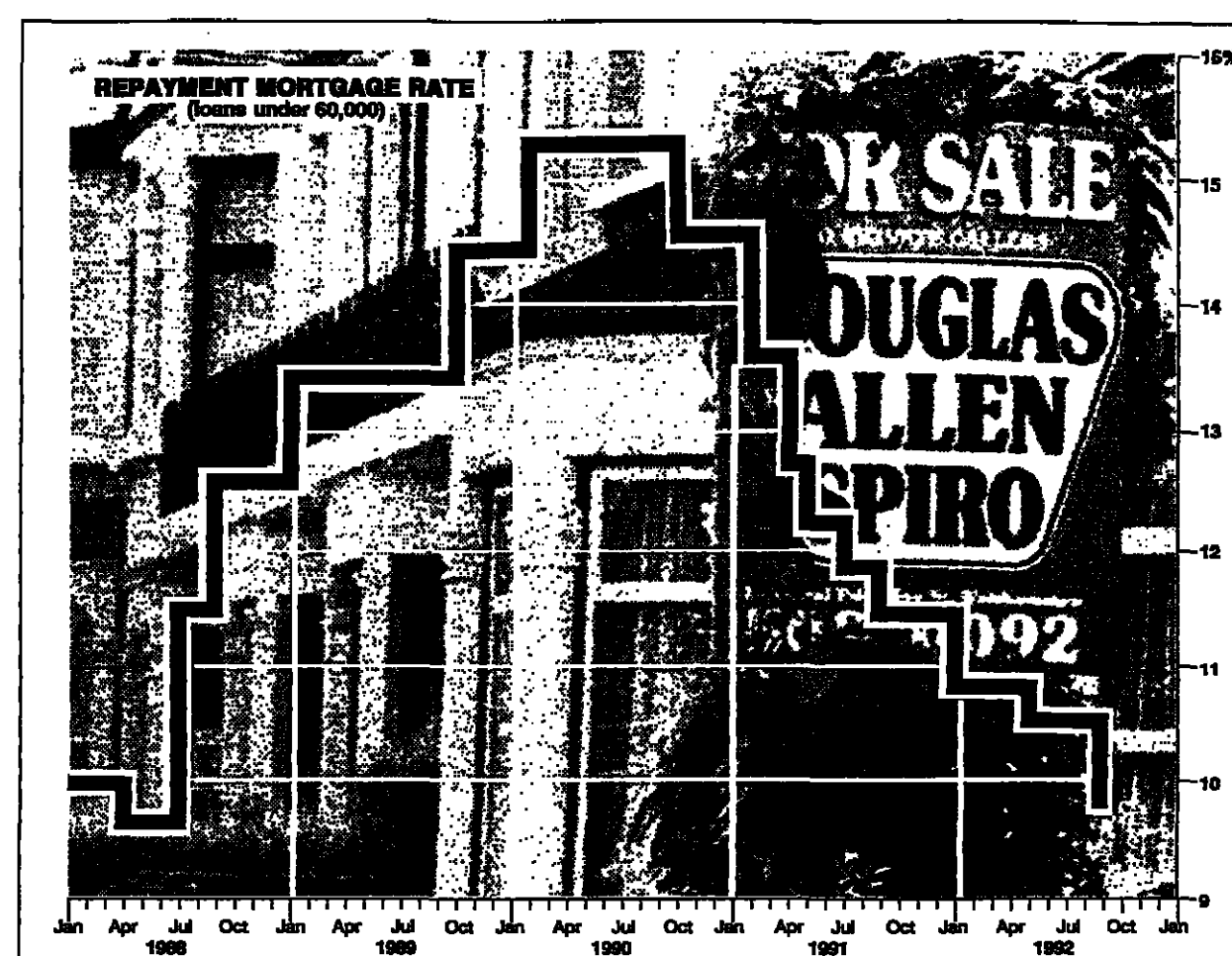
Unfortunately for victims of the recession who find themselves living in the real world of what has been dubbed "nightmare on Acacia Avenue", neither the Bank's nor the Treasury's model works.

The reason is that they do not take into account real interest rates, the rate homeowners pay after deducting the rate of inflation. After yesterday's 1 point cut in base rates real interest rates will fall from around 6 per cent now to an expected 3 per cent at the end of next year, easing the pain for homeowners.

One point off mortgage rates is reckoned to knock 0.75 points off the retail prices index. While economists expect underlying inflation to persist at 3.5 per cent next year they think the headline figure will hold at 4 per cent or so.

What happens to base rates, the other component of real interest rates, depends largely on what happens to the pound. It is felt in the markets that sterling has some way to fall yet. The extent of this fall dictates whether or not rates will be cut. The devaluation of the pound over the past few days, 10 per cent on its trade weighted index, has, in terms of monetary conditions, removed an equivalent of 2.5 percentage points from interest rates.

But if the pound can hold steady in the next few weeks no one would be surprised by a cut to 8 per cent at the end of October, to celebrate the conclusion of the government's spending round, although foreign exchange dealers would be keen to see the £244.5 billion spending total held. If interest rates of 7 or 7.5



per cent are achieved in 1993 then real interest rates will fall to 3 per cent, half the level before last week's withdrawal from the ERM and a quarter of what they might have been if the emergency 15 per cent base rate had stuck.

Standard mortgage rates are set to come down below 10 per cent for the first time since the summer of 1988 when the market was booming, even if homeowners cannot hope for a return of those heady days when property prices were rising by 30 per cent a year.

Some house price watchers saw yesterday's base rate cut and subsequent mortgage reduction as the turning point for the housing market. But they added that the turn would have a very wide angle.

There are hundreds of thousands of properties overhanging the market. These include about 70,000 houses repossessed by lenders. These are unoccupied and in poor condition. About 40,000 new properties are unsold and there are thousands of empty inherited properties. In addition, many owners are being forced to sell because of other debts and up to 1.5 million people are trapped because their mortgage is larger than the value of the property.

Adrian Coles, chief economist at the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), said of yesterday's 1 per cent base rate cut: "This is not of itself enough to bring normal con-

ditions back to the housing market. There have been eight reductions in the mortgage rate since it was at 15.4 per cent in early 1990. They have been accompanied by a continuing slowing down in the housing market. This should slow down the rate by which house prices are falling. If you look at the Nationwide house price index it has been slowing down all year."

The CML will continue to seek measures to help the housing market. "There is still a case for a mortgage benefit to help the low paid, something to stimulate the market for first time buyers and possibly money for housing associations," Mr Coles said. The latter would also take some properties out of the market.

The reduced cost of mort-

gage tax relief could help fund such measures. Lenders still feel that the market could benefit with some tinkering with the tax relief system. A doubling of the £30,000 limit for new buyers for a limited time could be coupled with a long term reduction in the benefit for existing borrowers. With falling rates, the benefit, which costs £6.1 billion a year, could go for good.

Gary Marsh, controller of group planning and research at the Halifax Building Society, said: "It could be the turning point. But it will not be a sharp one. It will depend on further cuts and the response to them." The largest mortgage lender is sticking by its prediction that house prices will fall 5 per cent over the year and will be stable next year.

Mr Marsh said: "We have seen a fall from 15 per cent to 10 per cent and this has not

than a year and they had not revived the housing market.

The spectre of unemployment was still holding buyers back as was the fear that property values were not yet stable. If base rates fell to 8 per cent by the end of the year, as the stockbroker is predicting, and mortgage rates came down to 9 per cent there would still be no upward move in house prices next year but there would be stability.

The housebuilding industry has yet to be convinced of recovery prospects. Neville Simms, chief executive of Tarmac, Britain's biggest housebuilder, described the cut as a step in the right direction, but said much more action was required to revive construction and housebuilding. "It will take substantially more than this to get any significantly firm foundation established in the UK construction sector — and I don't mean just more interest rate cuts."

Like a number of prominent executives in the devastated construction sector, Mr Simms refuses to say what specific action he would like government to take. "It's not my place to do their job. But there must be other confidence-stimulating steps, moves and statements that can be taken or made." He added that he was delighted that the state of the British economy was now being given priority by the Treasury.

Many in the construction sector have given up hope of the government spending its way to recovery by commissioning the big infrastructure projects that are currently so conspicuous by their absence. Of more immediate concern now, he said, was the threat to existing programmes by the imminent round of public spending cuts. Mr Simms was particularly concerned by the threat to the road building programme.

"Our infrastructure is in a very poor state compared to our European partners. We are relying on the government to honour its promises and not give in to Treasury demands to cut the road building programme," he said.

National Westminster Bank Business Accounts Interest Rates

National Westminster Bank announces the following interest rates, effective from 23 September 1992:

| Gross Interest per annum | Balance | Gross Compounded Annual Rate* |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 7.250% | Instant Access — No minimum deposit/withdrawal | 7.45% |
| 7.125% | £250,000 and above | 7.32% |
| 6.875% | £100,000 — £249,999 | 7.05% |
| 6.250% | £25,000 — £99,999 | 6.40% |
| 3.625% | £2,000 — £24,999 | 3.67% |
| | £500 — £1,999 | |

* Where appropriate, Basic Rate Tax will be deducted from interest credited or paid (which may be reclaimed by resident non-taxpayers). Subject to the required registration form, interest will be paid gross.

* Gross Compounded Annual Rate is the true annual return on your savings if the interest payments are retained in the account.

National Westminster Bank Plc
41 Lombury London EC2P 2BP

BASE RATE

With effect from close of business on 22 September 1992 Base Rate has been decreased from 10% to 9% per annum.



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All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate linked to Morgan Grenfell Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited
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BANK OF SCOTLAND BASE RATE

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Mr Maxwell regrets...

SERIOUS though the task of acting as administrator to Maxwell Communication Corporation is, the ongoing and lengthy process has not, it seems, been entirely devoid of humour. While sifting through mountains of paperwork at MCC, David Lee, a Price Waterhouse partner, head of its special investigations unit, and, as such, the man in charge of MCC's administration, unearthed a copy of a letter sent to James Morgan, director of services to government at Arthur Young Management Consultants, from a Mike Tully, who styled himself "special assistant to the chairman." The letter, which, according to colleagues, caused Lee to "howl with laughter in the midst of what has otherwise been a pretty grim task" had clearly been sent in response to an earlier letter from Arthur Young, requesting that MCC complete a questionnaire about "fraud in business." MCC's reply, dated August 23, 1985, read thus: "Robert Maxwell has asked me to thank you for your letter of 1 August, 1985, about the occurrence of fraud in business, but regrets that pressures of time prevent us from participating in your survey. As requested I return you questionnaire. Yours sincerely..."

The green light

EVEN pest control has now gone green. The blue lights seen in butcher's shop windows and chilled food coun-

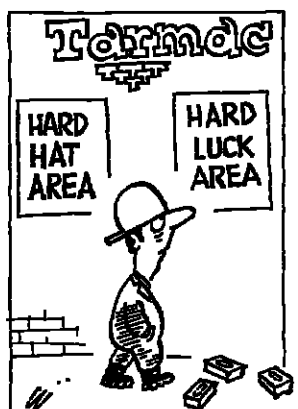
ters throughout Britain for the past 30 years are about to change. Insect-O-Cutor, a subsidiary of Peter Cox, which developed and supplies ultra violet light tubes to attract flying insects, is launching a new light wavelength of 357 nanometres, which emits a soft green light instead. According to Insect-O-Cutor, the new green light — harmless to humans — is more effective and operates over a much larger area. Export sales for this new method of electronic pest control are already booming with grateful customers ranging from a chicken farm in Singapore, housing 8 million chicks, to a Coca-Cola bottling plant in Mauritius and a number of department store food halls in Spain.

Reading matter

SEEN in The Business Book Shop, just around the corner from London Business School, a hastily prepared sign dominating the window display of heavy economic and financial tomes. It reads: "All books reserved for Mr Lamont."

Bite at recession

JUST opened in Islington, next to the Business Design Centre, is the Recession Cafe, part of the Garfunkels group. The walls of the brasserie are plastered with photographs of John Major, Norman Lamont, Nigel Lord Lawson, et al, and the cocktails on the menu include the Maxwell House, a heady vodka-based mix, and the Polly Peck, made from apricot brandy and coconut cream. Phil Cro-



ters, but they tend to make it very difficult to buy anything. Spotted at both Christie's and rival Sotheby's in the past, Tennant is not prevented by house rules from using Sotheby's but the not always gentlemanly rivalry between the two houses may prohibit that also. "I haven't yet thought about whether I will use Sotheby's or not," Tennant confesses. "One thing I hope not to engage in, however, is any mud-slinging activity against our rivals. Sotheby's is an excellent house."

Do not pass go

THE arrival of a couple of policemen from Bishopsgate police station and a horde of press photographers at the Eastcheap offices of Lowndes Lambert, the insurance company, yesterday caused passers-by to stop and stare. Fears of a police swoop, however, were soon dispelled by the toy jail on the pavement and the presence a host of television sit-com celebrities who had gathered to launch the City Monopoly Challenge in aid of Children with Leukaemia. The competition will take place on November 19, at the Honourable Artillery Club, and the charity is hoping that up to 200 City firms will pay £500 to enter teams of two people. Schroders, Kleinwort Benson and National Westminster Bank have already committed teams and a target of £100,000 has been set to fund the tests necessary to match bone marrow donors with children waiting for operations.

CAROL LEONARD

Portfolio

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend of £2,000. If it matches you have your share of the £2,000 daily dividend. If you do not, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Claim rules appear on the back of your card.

| No. | Company | Group | Price | Yield | Div | P/E |
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Weekly Dividend

Please make up your own daily totals

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Mr John Furse, of Tavistock, Devon, won the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday.

1992 High Low Company Price Price Net Yld Div P/E

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Rate cut lifts shares

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began September 21. Dealings end October 2. £50,000 day October 5. Settlement day October 12. \$50,000 day October 12. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle price.

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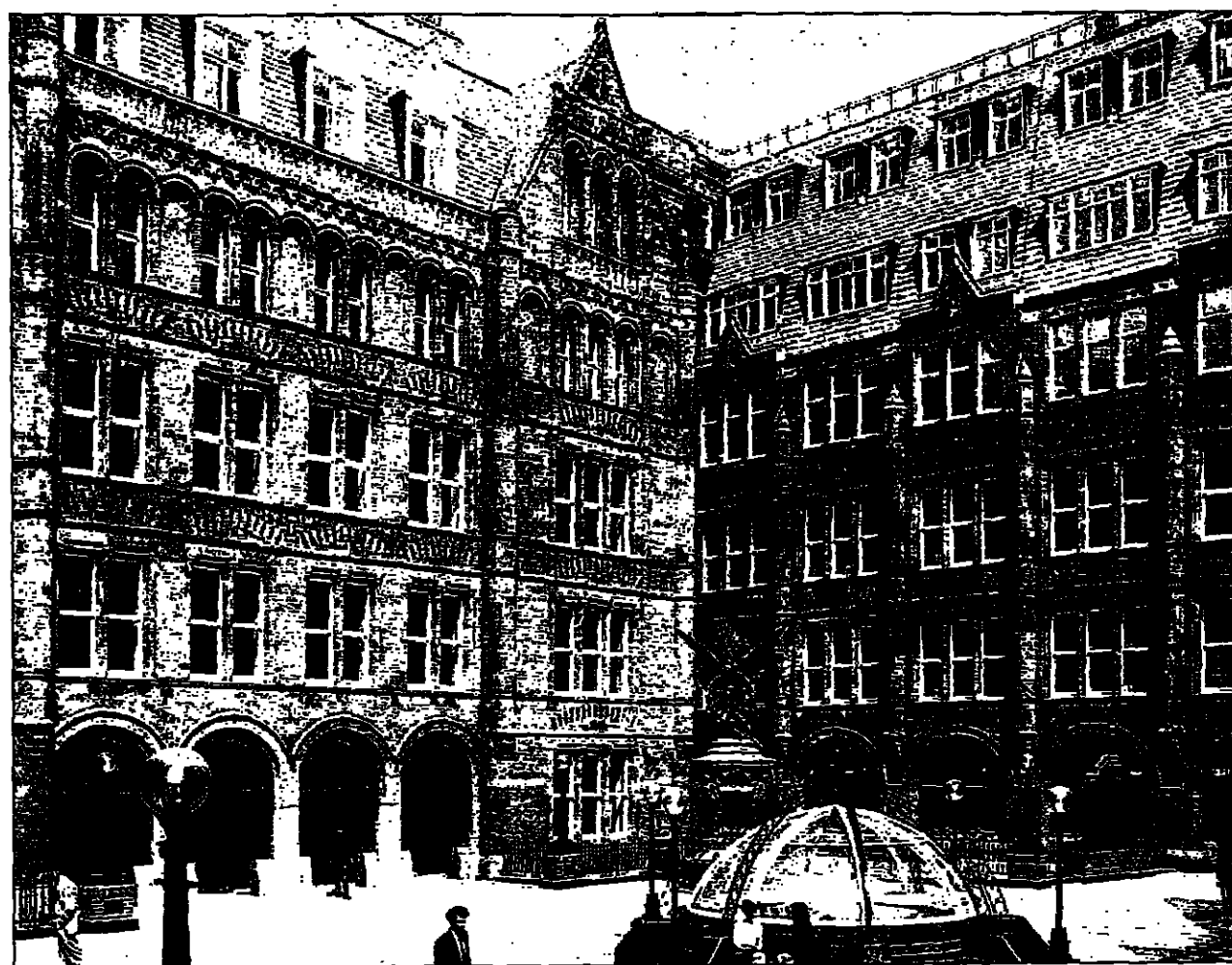
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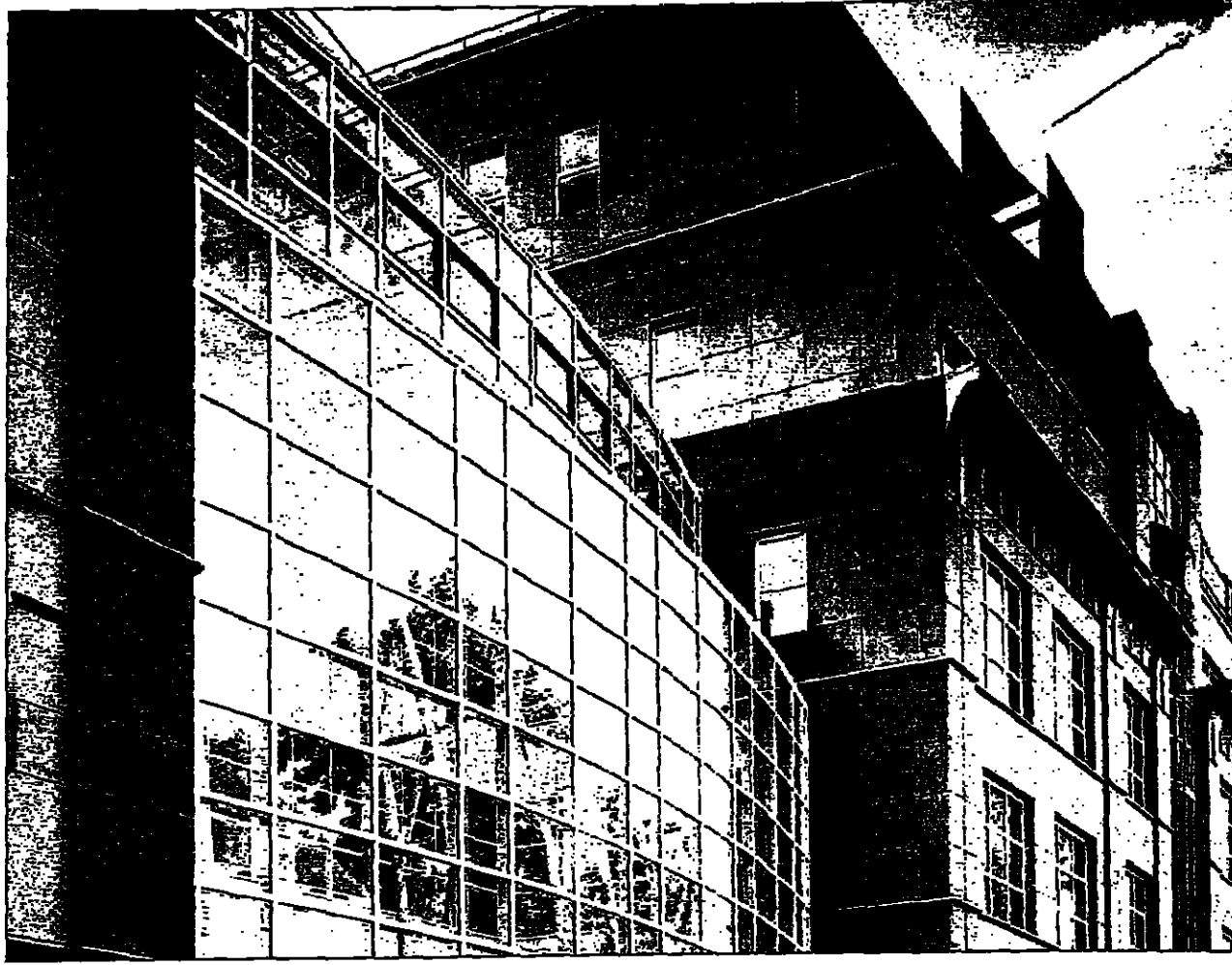
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PRUDENTIAL, the leading insurance, pensions and financial services group, has completed the £135 million redevelopment of its distinctive headquarters buildings at Holborn Bars, central London, in a project that took three and a half years. New buildings now stand alongside the red brick and terracotta

Victorian Gothic facades (above, left) that were designed by Alfred Waterhouse, who also designed the Natural History Museum. The 426,000 sq ft of space are contained in three distinct connecting buildings arranged around Waterhouse Square, a new public square with pedestrian access from



Holborn, Brooke Street and Leather Lane. The 160,000 sq ft West Court, running along Holborn and Brooke Street, is to be occupied by Prudential as its international headquarters, and the agent Herring Baker Harris is seeking tenants for the remaining 253,000 sq ft at North Court (above, right) and East

Court at an asking rent of £35 a sq ft. Rodney Powell, of Herring Baker Harris, says the development is exceptional in that it could accommodate both legal firms requiring intensive cellular office layouts and companies that need large floor plates with layouts that are more open-plan.

Business plays it cool in a quiet market

Companies in the South East are still uncertain and fear more job cuts, though there are signs of hope, Christopher Warman writes

The prospects for businesses in London and the Southeast remain poor for the next few months as companies talk of uncertainty about the future and expect further job losses.

This uncomfortable view is contained in the *Property Confidence Review*, published by Jones Lang Wootton Consulting—and Research after a survey of more than 600 companies occupying 97 million sq ft of offices and employing more than 580,000 staff. One glimmer of hope is that they expect job losses to slow down.

Of the companies surveyed, 29 per cent were more confident for the future than six months ago, but 60 per cent

said their confidence would be unchanged for the next six months because they were unsure of the future. Such is the uncertainty that more than half the respondents declined to comment on the future of the economy, but of those that did, 40 per cent expected recovery signs in the second half of 1993.

During the past 12 months the companies included in the sample shed a total of 21,000 office jobs, or 3.5 per cent, nearly double the 11,500 they had predicted they would lose during the period. These companies now expect to lose a further 7,000 jobs, or 1.2 per cent, in the next 12 months, which, Jones Lang Wootton suggests, indicates that the rate of job losses is slowing.

Prospects vary across the business sectors, but insurance and professional services are the only ones to predict employment growth in the next 12 months. Although the increase in the number of jobs is expected to be small—less than 1 per cent—it will be across the board.

The electronics sector expects the greatest job losses. The companies in the survey have cut nearly 10,000 jobs in the past 12 months and they expect to lose another 5,000 jobs in the next 12 months.

Gerald Blundell, a partner in Jones Lang Wootton, says

that from the sample it estimates an overall loss of about 20,000 office jobs in the whole of the Southeast during the next 12 months. This figure is a marked improvement on the overall loss of 56,000 estimated six months ago.

In the past six months about 1.8 million sq ft of office space was taken up, 1.1 million sq ft less than the amount of space taken in the previous six-month period.

The City of London was the most active market in the past six months, accounting for 43 per cent of the space occupied, compared with only 18 per

cent in the previous survey. Part of this increase was the result of the damage caused by the IRA bomb in the City in April, which led to a demand for emergency space.

Only 15 per cent of the companies in London and the Southeast said they had a requirement for new office space. This totalled 3.7 million sq ft, a fall of 36 per cent since January 1992. For nearly 80 per cent, however, the requirement was definite and for nearly 60 per cent the space was expected to be taken up within the next 12 months.

Of the 3.7 million sq ft

demand one-third has been pre-let and nearly a quarter is being built for owner occupation. The demand is evenly spread within the Southeast, and none of the companies in the sample expect to move outside the area. The West End of London has shown a significant increase in future demand. The area now has a 23 per cent share of demand compared with only 6 per cent 12 months ago.

Mr Blundell says: "Our sample has identified central London, particularly the West End, and the Home Counties as the principal areas for

future demand. Continued convergence of rents will mean that occupiers will no longer gain to the same extent from the kind of cost savings that a decentralisation would have afforded them just a few years ago."

Despite the bleak outlook emerging from Jones Lang Wootton survey, the property market is holding up comparatively well, according to Hillier Parker. The consultancy's latest average yields index shows that, although the picture is far from rosy, the market has defied warnings of a serious collapse.

The all-property average yield remains static at 9.2 per cent, the same as the gilt yield and substantially ahead of the equity yield.

Offices are suffering more than the industrial and retail sectors, says Greg Nicholson, of Hillier Parker.

He says: "Offices are still the poor relation, and although we have seen a resurgence of activity in the provinces, compared with potential investment stock available and the existing heavy weighting in this sector within most institutions' portfolios, the deal has to be either first-class or at a historically high yield to tempt most buyers."

He says, however, that property is performing better than most people give it credit for. "While we were predicting doom and gloom 18 months ago, we have seen the market stabilise over the first eight months of this year," he says.

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Video tenants

BEAUMONT House in Kensington Village, London & Edinburgh Trust's 320,000 sq ft development in west London, has been let to Buena Vista Home Video, a Walt Disney subsidiary. As part of the deal, the developer is to install an air-conditioning system to the whole of the 81,000 sq ft property and has agreed to take over commitments on leases of two buildings held by Walt Disney in Soho. These incentives show that tenants are in a strong position. The rent is a closely guarded secret.

The letting brings the total space occupied in Kensington Village to more than 100,000 sq ft, and only Avon House, 31,500 sq ft of new air-conditioned offices, remains available in the first phase. Richard Ellis and Savills, which acted for London & Edinburgh, will also market the second phase of 155,000 sq ft of air-conditioned offices.

Eggs in store
CADBURY has won planning consent to build a 400,000 sq ft chilled warehouse on a 20-acre site at Midpoint Park, Birmingham, which will contain Europe's largest pallet store. The warehouse will hold more than 90,000 pallets storing 30 million Easter eggs and Christmas products. 80 per cent of which are manufactured at Bourneville, Birmingham. Work on the £20 million project begins soon and is due for completion by August 1993. Cadbury searched for



Disney time: Buena Vista Home Video, part of the film group, is taking Beaumont House

two years before deciding on the 90-acre Midpoint Park, Birmingham's largest distribution and production centre.

Sporty new look
LILLYWHITES of Piccadilly Circus, the sports retailer, launches its 1990s new look tomorrow after a three-year project as part of the Criterion complex refurbishment. The £10 million scheme enables the company, owned by Forte, to increase its space from 28,000 sq ft to 35,000 sq ft, and open up parts of the building, including the Grand Hall, a Grade I listed Victorian ballroom, which will house part of a new outdoor adventure department.

China challenge
REGUS, the international business centre operator, has opened in Peking, providing an office environment for companies to ease the task of

establishing a local base in China. From a basic charge of \$250 a month, a company has access to a multilingual reception and answering service, secretarial and support services, interpreters and translators, modern telecommunications equipment and conference rooms. The centre forms part of the Peking Lufthansa Centre, which includes a 540-room five-star hotel, the city's largest department store, apartments and restaurants.

Langham sale
THE Langham Estate, covering 11 acres in London's West End between Euston Road and Oxford Street, is for sale at £77.5 million through Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks. The estate comprises 142 properties and the income is about £7.17 million. Tenants include Courtlands, AMI Group, the BBC, C&A and Crest Hotels. The estate is

owned by Grovewood (LE), which acquired it when Grovewood Securities took over Priest Mariani Holdings in 1990.

City's first
THE opening of B&Q's 47,000 sq ft DIY store on the Alvis Retail Park, Coventry, last week marked the completion of one of the most successful out-of-town retail parks undertaken in Britain in the 1990s. The development took only nine months and four of the tenants paid premiums totalling £700,000. The project, by Longwood Alvis Retail Park, a wholly owned subsidiary of Longwood Developments, provides 135,140 sq ft in nine units, all of which were pre-let at rents between £9 and £16.40 a sq ft. The £13.5 million scheme is built on the 11-acre former Alvis works site and is the city's first retail park.

A new company aims to sell British real estate in Hong Kong

An early move on Eastern customers

WHILE THE property market continues to stagnate, a group of entrepreneurs have aroused enough interest in Britain to convince them to form a company based in Hong Kong and Macao to sell new homes in the UK. Headed by an estate agent, Anthony Hickman, the group, HKD, is to open its first Anglo-Chinese staffed office next month, offering flats and houses to investors and future UK residents. "By the time the colony reverts to China in 1997 there will be 25,000 new Hong Kong holders of British passports, and up to 100,000 expatriates looking for real estate bolt-hole investments here," Mr Hickman says. "It is a huge potential market and our decision to open up a shop window in Hong Kong was further reinforced when the Portuguese government announced that it would be granting 150,000 new European passports to Macao residents. They will need the security of real estate as investments or homes too, and not all of them will

want to settle in Portugal." British housebuilders Tarmac, Westbury, Crest, Beazer, Bloor and Tay Homes have indicated interest in placing unsold UK homes on the computerised HKD register. The company will also offer legal, taxation and financial advice from its UK-trained and Cantonese-speaking executives in the territory and in Britain.

Chun F Kong, a UK-based partner, says that it is not only Hong Kong residents who are interested in buying British real estate. He says: "Mainland Chinese companies have branch offices in Hong Kong and have become the biggest commercial property investors there today. They have taken over from the Japanese, who are suffering a recession and have had to sell buildings in the colony. These mainland Chinese companies are in a position to buy whole housing developments and have shown keen interest in our property advertisements in Hong Kong."

Chun F Kong, a UK-based

MICHAEL DINEEN

SAUDI ARABIA

The king's cautious first step to reform

The kingdom was created 60 years ago today.

Christopher Walker reports on a move to open up political debate

Saudi Arabia emerged with fresh confidence from the Gulf war, and is now poised on the brink of a new era of consultation between the monarchy and the people. There is to be a new consultative assembly, or *majlis al-shura*.

It will be, by choice, a far cry from Western democracy, which has been decreed unsuitable despite an outcry from Saudi dissidents. But it is unprecedented in the 60 years since the state was founded, and will come as something of a revolution in a country regarded as one of the most conservative in the 21-member Arab League.

"A thousand-mile walk has to start with a first step," commented Esmat Abdul Meguid, the league's secretary general, when the reforms were announced in March. "From an Arab perspective it is a very good beginning, and I am very pleased. Do not expect us to go directly to a Western democratic system in a matter of days or months. This will take time."

The package is effectively the country's first written constitution. The changes in it go beyond setting up the assembly, which will be 60-strong, and whose composition is expected to be announced this week. They include an important alteration to the system by which future kings will be chosen, by giving members of a younger royal generation the possibility of accession to the throne if they are selected by their peers among about 500 senior royal princes.

The changes also grant governors and local assemblies in the provinces extensive autonomy in deciding priorities on spending and development.

The new council will not be able to initiate legislation, only inform the cabinet and the king of its views. However, even cynical observers acknowledge that this is the



Changing tradition: King Fahd gives one of his regular audiences to Saudi citizens. Soon a new assembly will increase public consultation

most important move towards opening political debate in Saudi history, and describe the recent influx of Western armies en route to liberating Kuwait as a contributory factor.

Internal political decisions have been marked by great caution since King Fahd succeeded King Khalid in 1982. King Fahd has made promises of consultation three times previously without result, and a lavish building to house a new parliamentary body has remained empty in Riyadh since a previous promise of consultation early in the 1980s. When he made his announcement in March, he told his people: "The democratic system that is predominant in the world is not a suitable system for the peoples of our region. Our peoples' make-up and unique qualities are different from those of the rest of the world... We have Islamic beliefs that constitute a complete and fully integrated system. Free elections are not [part of] this Islamic system."

Security depends on closer military ties

Like most decisions taken since Operation Desert Storm, the new basic laws are a careful balancing act between the demands of those urging speedy modernisation and conservatives fighting a rearguard action to keep the desert kingdom free from Western influences. The absence of any new role for women is a sop to the conservatives.

By contrast, article 37 states that "private homes have their sanctity", and this is a move to lessen the powers of the *mutawwi*, or religious police, who have been staging a backlash against any steps to bring in liberalisation.

The war had a minimal cultural effect, according to Western diplomats, even though it brought more than 500,000 foreign troops on to Saudi soil. Like millions of foreign workers before them, the troops remained isolated. "This was probably the first war in history without war brides," one envoy remarked.

The mere presence of the armies, however, with their Christmas trees, women drivers and other

alien influences, deeply disturbed the fundamentalists, who have resorted to illegal cassette tapes in a campaign against the royal family. But the latest assessment is that their propaganda war has failed to deflect the monarchy from its ultra-cautious progress into the 20th century.

One tape, entitled "Supergun", claims that "royal family princes are not owed allegiance unless they follow the rules of Islam". It attacks senior religious leaders allied to the monarchy, the United States, which it describes as the atheist enemy of Islam; and the growing number of middle-class and upper-class Saudis who have turned from religion to a more Western-oriented way of life.

A second cassette, "America As I Saw It", by Ayid Qorni, an Islamic preacher, has been circulating for more than two years. It pours scorn on the US as an atheistic nation where men marry other men, sons and daughters abandon their parents to hunger and old age, women have fatherless children, and films "show animals fornicating with humans".

Despite the impact of the tapes,

the Saudi monarchy has remained the West's most dependable ally in the Arab world. While Egypt and Syria, pillars of the 1990-91 anti-Iraq coalition, have resisted all Washington's overtures to support the "no fly" zone imposed on Iraq below the 32nd parallel, Saudi Arabia has once again provided the main ground facilities for the operation and accommodation for its headquarters in Riyadh.

Riyadh is aware of the extreme sensitivity of the issue in the Arab world, however, and has repeatedly denied that its planes have been giving support outside Saudi airspace. It has stressed that the operation is in no way intended to split Iraq into three states, as many Arab leaders fear.

Almost no visas have been issued to Western journalists, which is thought to reflect annoyance at the reporting of Saudi social mores by the 2,300 who covered the Gulf war, and the fear that a new influx of reporters could result in new stunts, such as the driving demon-



stration staged then by 43 angry veiled women to protest against the ban on women drivers.

Saudi co-operation in the aerial exclusion zone was also not as quickly forthcoming as had been expected in Washington and London. Some diplomats say that the *asute rulers of the kingdom*, whose own defences are still lacking in many aspects, used the delay to ensure that President Bush finally went ahead with his controversial decision to approve the sale to Saudi Arabia of 72 F-15 fighter jets without demanding any reciprocal move by the Arabs to drop the Arab boycott against Israel.

Purchase of the F-15s will prove that Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies have emerged from the war convinced their future security depends on closer military ties to the US and on a significant expansion in the size and weaponry of their own armed forces.

Egypt and Syria have made repeated attempts to implement the Damascus declaration by moving their own troops to form part of a new Arab reaction force in the Gulf, but they have foundered as a result of the re-emergence of suspicions between the Gulf Arabs (regarded by many in the region as parvenus) and other Arab states.

Running contrary to this trend is a shared suspicion of the ambitions of Iran, which may yet prove a new binding factor. "When it is the

Arabs against the Persians, almost any slight can be forgotten, but not yet those inflicted by President Saddam," an Arab diplomat says.

The Saudis are not alone in the Gulf Co-operation Council in wishing that the Americans would take more positive steps to overthrow the Iraqi leader. Unlike Kuwait, however, they remain concerned that if Iraq broke up, a breakaway Shia state beholden to Iran could emerge in the south.

The Sunni rulers in Riyadh remain suspicious of the traditionally poorer Shias of eastern Saudi Arabia, thought to number around 600,000. The Shias are excluded from a number of key positions, but are hopeful that their lot may soon improve.

Saudi Arabia has seen values on its stock market double since the war's end, but it is a much less wealthy nation now than it once was. It has still not forgiven a number of those who failed to join the coalition, notably Jordan, Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Its refusal to forgive and forget is symptomatic of its new post-war confidence. This is based partly on a conviction that its own ways are the correct ones, and partly on the renewed proof of the strategic value of oil to the world's only remaining superpower.

As one Saudi remarks to his son in a recent *Le Monde* cartoon, pointing to oil wells stretching across the sand as far as the eye can see, "We have not changed our system of defence."

'We have not changed our system of defence'

The modernisation of defence is speeded by fears about Iran

A new priority for air power

The Gulf war interrupted Saudi Arabia's plans for defence modernisation, and temporarily threw them off course. Before August 2, 1990, when Iraq invaded Kuwait, the Saudis had been planning to expand the size and capabilities of their air force and army rather than concentrate on the army alone.

However, the shock induced in Riyadh by the invasion, and the possibility of Saddam Hussein's forces rolling southwards towards the oilfields of the North-East Province, galvanised Saudi decision-makers into a re-examination of their priorities.

Numerous "contracts" were entered into, although few of them have been formalised, to buy equipment, including tanks, infantry combat vehicles and artillery systems. The age of existing Saudi equipment, and its general unreadiness, persuaded many that army modernisation plans had to be brought forward quickly.

The rush of assistance from Western nations to Saudi Arabia did not, by itself, stop such hastily made plans from being pushed ahead. But once the allied coalition had successfully re-invaded Kuwait, Riyadh decided to rethink its policy on defence modernisation. It has now returned to a policy of boosting its air defences, and slowing down land systems purchases.

Grand plans to procure a 1,200-tank army, or a 20-fregate navy, are now seen as illusory. Instead, Saudi Arabia in the past few months has reverted to basing its defence primarily on air power.

This renewed priority has been given an impetus by the noticeable growth of Iranian air power over the past year, with purchases of front-line former Soviet fighters, such as the MiG-29, and probably of Tu-22 strategic bombers.

This is the background to the current competition for immediate sales of fighters between the United States and Britain. Britain is offering the Tornado, and the Americans



Guard duty: Saudi troops escorting a visiting dignitary

the F-15K/PF, but both have to reckon with the fact that with oil prices stagnant, and the possibility of their actually falling, Saudi Arabia is in its own terms at least, short of ready cash.

Traditionally, the southern Gulf states have always regarded Iran as a bigger long-term threat than Iraq. The Iranian arms build-up under the Shah scared the monarchies of the southern Gulf, and started them on their modernisation plans. The fall of the Shah in 1979 had the effect of pushing the West closer to these states, but the modernisation had already begun.

The Americans had originally put forward their Peace Shield plans in the late 1970s, and they were accelerated by the 1979 revolution in Iran, but not started by it. The basis of such plans, and of those put

forward by Britain, is the creation of an air force effective enough to protect Saudi air space against all comers, while keeping the reserve capacity, in numbers and quality of equipment, to strike against aggressors.

The Peace Shield plans led to the sale to Saudi Arabia of E-3 Sentry AEWACS aircraft, against Israeli wishes, as well

as of F-15 air defence aircraft. Such plans mirror those adopted by Israel, which sees a good air force as the best air defence weapon, rather than relying upon missile batteries. The Saudis went on to sign the original

Al Yamamah deal, for a comprehensive, long-term defence package, with Britain in 1985, as a result of American reluctance to sell a ground-attack variant of the F-15 to be a front-line attack aircraft. This was followed by Al

Yamamah II, for which a memorandum of understanding was signed in 1988, and which could include a sale of Tornados.

Al Yamamah is in line with Saudi strategic thinking, and the Saudis have felt no regret at having "ditched", albeit temporarily, their American protector in favour of Britain. They like not being dependent on one source for their major equipment supplies.

Riyadh is now under pressure to place definite orders, with the United States or Britain, since both the F-15 and the Tornado production lines face closure unless a Saudi order is made.

In the United States, a possible order has been held up by delays over obtaining George Bush's approval for an F-15 sale — since Jewish votes still carry weight in American elections — but on September 11 the president announced his desire to see such a sale.

At the same time, Riyadh has been impressed by the performance of the Tornado attack aircraft, and has talked to British Aerospace about the possibility of buying the European Fighter Aircraft (EFA).

The main difficulty facing Riyadh is money, because of stagnant oil prices. To put forward initial payments for Al Yamamah II, Riyadh had to borrow from Saudi banks, and it will probably raise the total of oil shipments to Britain to help pay for the deal.

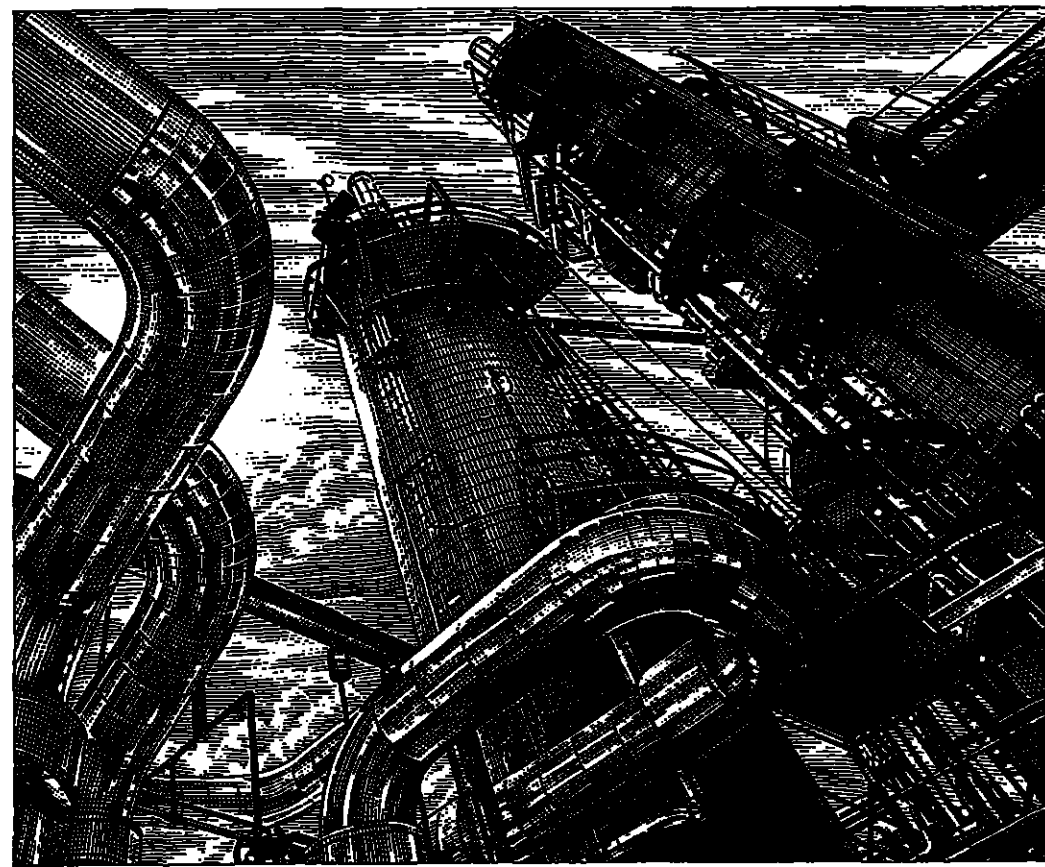
Riyadh is having to balance a number of factors in its defence procurement plans at present. The cash shortage has delayed long-promised deals, although defence needs seem likely to overcome fiscal nervousness. The main threat seen by Riyadh is from Iran, and this is pushing the Saudis towards air, and air defence systems.

There are also plans for modernisation of the ageing army equipment, but the shortage of ready money may well push back procurement plans to the mid 1990s at the very least.

Talks are being held with the Gulf Co-operation Council to establish a regional defence force, but the Saudis are more likely to look to their own capabilities first before they turn to any GCC force. They are thus one of the best Western sales prospects in the Middle East over the next five years.

FRANCIS TUSA

● The writer is European/Middle East editor of Armed Forces Journal International.



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Budgeting for boom



Shoppers in Jeddah: money pumped into the economy from the oil industry is benefiting the retail trade

The Saudi economy is looking buoyant. The Gulf war has bolstered the country's confidence to an unexpected degree and given people a greater sense of self-respect.

The private sector, clearly optimistic about the country's stability and the purchasing power of the rapidly increasing Saudi population, is pushing ahead with service and manufacturing projects.

Demand for imports is rising, while large private industrial projects, particularly in the chemicals sector, are starting up in the new industrial cities of Jubail and Yanbu. With huge volumes of liquidity in the financial system, the commercial banks, after some doldrum years, are again willing to lend.

The private sector has been helped by an expansionist budget for 1992, set at 181 billion Saudi riyals (SR), equivalent to £27 billion, 27 per cent up on the last published budget — SR143 billion (£21.3 billion) for 1990. Defence has taken the lion's share of this year's budget, but project expenditure was set at around SR52 billion (£7.8 billion), compared with recurrent expenditure of SR129 billion (£19.25 billion).

The largest percentage increase between 1990 and 1992 is for human resource development, which receives SR31.1 billion (£4.6 billion). More than half the population is under 18, and a high priority is to educate, train and provide jobs for the young.

Despite government debts, business is bouncing back after the Gulf crisis, Caroline Montagu reports

Another is to use Saudi rather than foreign manpower.

Despite the perceived wisdom that government expenditure is the main motor of the economy, the private sector has at last achieved its own momentum.

This is reflected in the increasing percentage of non-oil activity in the annual figures for gross domestic product. It has been shown that the less the government imposes regulations on the private sector, the more business flourishes.

Nevertheless, the government's vast oil, refining and petrochemicals expansion programmes have helped by pumping money into the economy and providing a spin-off into construction, transportation and retail.

On the revenue side, the government expects to receive SR151 billion (£22.7 billion). If non-oil income from the foreign reserves and other sources tops SR40 billion (£6 billion), this would leave about SR111 billion (£16.6 billion) as the figure for expected oil revenue.

Evidence of the economic upturn is clear in the Saudi stock market boom, shown in the number of traded shares,

the price/earnings ratios of traded companies, the over-subscriptions on new public issues, and the number of Saudi companies preparing to come to the market. The recent issue of 2.175 million shares in the Saudi Pharmaceutical & Medical Company (Spimaco), launched on August 5 to raise a total of SR750 million (£112 million), will be two or three times oversubscribed.

Saudi Arabia's national accounts are unfortunately not so buoyant, and a current deficit of some \$10 billion is expected for 1992.

The slow deterioration of the country's balance of payments and the current account deficit have been apparent for the past decade. Saudi Arabia has now run a current account deficit for ten years, and figures from the International Monetary Fund in late 1991 forecast that this will continue to 1996, though at a lower level once the additional costs of the Gulf crisis have been cleared.

The government has borrowed both on the domestic market and from the international capital markets to finance its deficits. The government borrowed \$7 billion in 1991 and 1992, but it is also encouraging the big state companies, such as Saudi Aramco and the affiliates of the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation, and the utilities to obtain their own funding.

At the same time, the government has been tapping the domestic capital markets through government development bonds and treasury bills issued by Sama.

The level of the government's debt and debt servicing in the medium term is causing concern, but not alarm. According to the IMF's staff report of late 1991, "Despite the relatively favourable outlook for oil reserves, a medium-term fiscal scenario prepared by the staff team for the period 1992-96 envisages the budget deficit remaining relatively high (in the range of 7 to 9 per cent of gross domestic product) over the period."

Debt-service payments on government obligations are projected to rise significantly to about 11 per cent of total expenditures in 1996, adds the report. Official Saudi reserves have been drawn down over the past few years and especially during the Gulf crisis period. According to the IMF's International Financial Statistics, in the summer of 1992 Saudi Arabia had \$11.7 billion in short-term liquid funds. However, given the increasing strength of the trade balance and the diversification of the economy, the country's debt servicing is manageable.

The world's largest oil exporter aims to step up production

Chemicals, refining and greener fuel the targets

If the world oil market sometimes behaves in an emotional and volatile way, and if the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) often appears unstable, Saudi Arabia's commitment to systematic exploitation of its oil is unshakable and consistent, Caroline Montagu writes.

It is the world's largest exporter, the world's second largest producer (after the former Soviet Union), and its proved reserves of about 258 billion barrels represent about a quarter of the world's total.

During the 1990-91 Gulf crisis the country showed its commitment to world oil security and stable prices by increasing production by three million barrels per day (bpd) to offset production lost from Iraq and Kuwait.

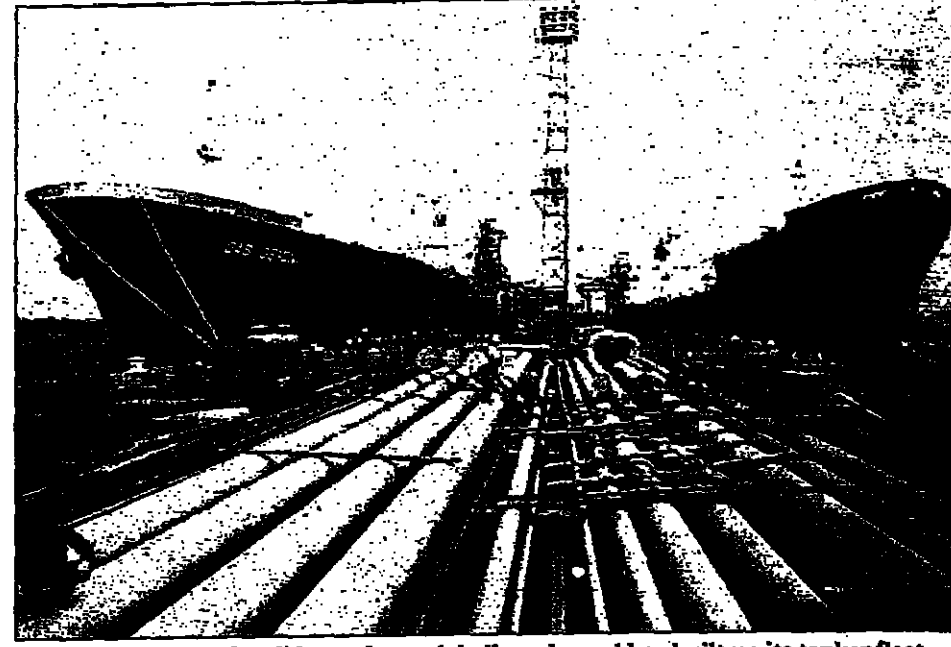
Within Opec, Saudi Arabia's production is on a different scale from any other member, and its surplus production capacity — it can still turn the taps on more — underpins the strength of its position. In order to maintain this close and its market share, Saudi Arabia has made clear that it will not produce below eight million bpd, whatever its Opec quota, and has tailored its oil strategy to give it maximum flexibility in the markets, as well as a substantial cushion of surplus production capacity.

It has instituted an ambitious programme through the state oil company, Saudi Aramco, to expand sustainable production to ten million bpd by 1995, with capital expenditure of about \$15 billion, and to achieve 12 million bpd later in the decade.

This programme includes development and upgrading of existing fields and their facilities both onshore and in the Gulf, and exploration for and development of new fields.

Since the bulk of Saudi crude is heavyish and sulphurous, and world demand is for ever lighter and sweeter products, the discovery of light sweet crude in a new field, Al Hawtah, in central Saudi Arabia has been welcomed. This field and another light field, Shayba, on the edge of the Empty Quarter (Rubh al Khali), have been given high priority.

However, recent moves by the European Community to curb demand by phasing in a carbon tax on oil consumption have been most



Floating assets: Saudi has substantial oil stocks and has built up its tanker fleet

unwelcome to Riyadh. Saudi Arabia takes a dim view of the notion that the extra revenue generated should go to oil-consuming, rather than producing, countries, and it questions the wisdom of its own massive expenditure on new facilities when the West aims to curb demand and take the revenues.

Another prong of its strategy is the development of refining and marketing facilities outside the country and the upgrading of its domestic refineries. The long-term goal, as stated by Hisham Nazer, the oil minister, is to sell about half its crude oil as higher-value refined products and to have a refining capacity outside the country of about three million bpd.

At the same time, Saudi Arabia tries to keep very substantial stocks of oil in floating or on-shore storage close to markets. It has been building up its tanker fleet through Vela, Saudi Aramco's tanker subsidiary. Saudi Aramco has also been buying into storage capacity in Europe and the Caribbean.

The country's aim is to set up secure market outlets and to keep income stable and customers happy, and with this end in view it has been forming joint ventures by buying into refining and distribution companies abroad. The most notable is Star Enterprise, a joint venture with Texaco in the United

States, refining 600,000 bpd.

A more recent venture is the Hana-Saudi Oil Refining Company, a \$470-million deal between Saudi Aramco and Ssangyong, which gives the Saudis a stake in two South Korean refineries and retail outlets. Recent discussions with the Japanese have apparently led to an agreement in principle for a major Saudi-Japanese refining joint venture in Japan and possibly some similar refining investment in Saudi Arabia.

In the refining and products end of the business, a new company, Saudi Marketing & Refining Company (Samarec), was established by royal decree in December 1988. Samarec has started an expansion and upgrading programme for the refineries in Saudi Arabia, which will increase production of lighter products and make Saudi Arabia the world's largest exporter of unleaded petrol.

The first phase, costing at \$2 billion, covers the three domestic refineries at Riyadh, Jeddah and the new industrial city of Yanbu. Plans down the line affect the three joint-venture export refineries at Jubail, Yanbu and Rabigh.

The seventh refinery, Saudi Aramco's Ras Tanura, is due to have a major upgrading programme to double capacity from the existing level of 250,000 bpd to 500,000 bpd (its previous capacity before a fire in 1990). It will run

mainly on heavier Saudi crudes but produce light products for export.

On the petrochemicals side, the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (Sabic), having set up 15 primary manufacturing plants in the past ten years at Yanbu on the Red Sea and at the larger industrial city of Jubail on the Gulf, has started a \$6-billion expansion programme.

Sabic began by producing base chemicals, such as ethylene, methanol, ethylene glycol and polyethylene, in 50-50 joint ventures with Western companies. It has now expanded into chemical intermediates and some end chemicals.

For instance, Sabic is becoming a major producer of the high octane additive, MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether), for unleaded petrol. It is now producing polypropylene and PVC, and may be planning to manufacture acrylonitrile, the nylon intermediate. At the same time, it plans to double the quantities of base chemicals.

The development of Sabic plants has given Jubail and Yanbu, the two industrial cities, a new look. Jubail has changed from eight or ten years ago. The Jubail-Dammam road, previously almost empty, now has a steady flow of heavy lorries. The city was planned, along with Yanbu, to be an industrial centre of Saudi Arabia. Yanbu has still got some way to go to catch up with Jubail, but, with worries about Gulf security, it is likely to accelerate its development.

Near miracles with seed and water



Field studies: food production became a high priority of the Saudi government in the mid 1970s, when some Americans urged an embargo

Saudi Arabia's great leap forward in agriculture during the past 20 years has been breathtaking. The country has made the desert bloom, developed hundreds of thousands of acres of wheat production, particularly in the central Nejd, created intensive horticulture for fruit and vegetables and is nearly self-sufficient in dairy products.

Such an achievement is almost miraculous in a country with no running rivers, a hostile desert climate, and a very low and variable rainfall, Caroline Montagu writes.

The Saudi government's policy of developing agriculture dates from the mid 1970s when, in response to the 1973 oil embargo by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), some American politicians suggested a tit-for-tat food embargo. Food security in Saudi Arabia, and in other Arab countries, became a matter of highest government priority. Riyadh established a far-reaching programme of agricultural subsidies in order to achieve a sensible level of food security.

This thrust towards agriculture has served two other purposes: bringing employment and prosperity to rural areas, and slowing the drift to the towns, which were already expanding rapidly. It has benefited the central area of Nejd, which, though the heartland of the ruling family, had not experienced the prosperity of the Eastern Province's oil industry nor the trade expansion in the Hijaz on the Red Sea.

The agricultural subsidies have

Breathtaking advances in agriculture have brought blooms even to the desert sands

served their primary aim of achieving a prudent level of food security. In 1980, 97 per cent of the country's food was imported; this has now been halved. Between 1985 and 1990, the share of agriculture in the Saudi gross domestic product rose from 3.4 per cent to 8 per cent, and the farming economy is slowly diversifying.

Under the present five-year plan (1990-95), the targeted annual growth rate in real terms for the agricultural sector is 7 per cent, more than twice the rate for the whole economy.

This all has its price. The government paid \$2.1 billion in subsidies for the record 1990 harvest of more than four million tons of wheat. Such is the production of grain that Saudi Arabia is now the world's sixth largest wheat exporter. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia is the world's largest importer of barley. The indirect subsidies are expensive: farmers receive an 80 per cent interest-free loan for agricultural inputs.

The country has also become self-sufficient in eggs and in some fruit and vegetables, and it is the world's largest producer of dates. Production of dairy produce has almost achieved self-

sufficiency, but again at a great cost in both subsidies and water.

Once the factor of water and water resources enters the agricultural equation, everything on the farm looks less rosy. It has been calculated that in Saudi Arabia it takes 1,500 gallons of water to produce one gallon of milk because of the water needed to produce the fodder, to water the cows and to sluice the animals to keep them cool.

Wheat production has other drawbacks: most of the wheat is produced in Qassim, in a belt north of Riyadh and further south towards Al Kharij. The crops are watered by the American system of central pivot irrigation, with very high evaporation levels, and that water is drawn from deep, non-renewable, fossil water aquifers.

The extent of the water resources is one of the best-kept secrets in Saudi Arabia, and a matter of government sensitivity. Saudi water comes from three sources. One is renewable groundwater, which accounts for less than 5 per cent of the country's consumption. This includes the shallow aquifers and major dams in the south-west. The shallow aquifers have been over-extracted, arousing fears for

older oases, while old aquifers under cities are being contaminated with untreated waste water.

The second source is desalinated water, which provides domestic water in cities such as Riyadh, Jeddah, Taif and Mecca. Desalination provides 90 per cent of Riyadh's water, and is piped 850 miles from the country's biggest desalination plant on the Gulf. But desalinated water is expensive, and the Saline Water Conversion Company is underfunded.

It is the third source, the water for agriculture, that causes most apprehension. Agriculture uses some 90 per cent of Saudi Arabia's annual consumption of about 16 billion cubic metres. This water comes from the non-renewable fossil aquifers, the life expectancy of which is reckoned by some to be only about 20 years. In the Qassim area, the water table has dropped 100 metres in the past ten years, and some farms have stopped production. Deeper drilling produces saltier, hotter water and, since the aquifers are cone-shaped, yields diminishing volumes.

Critics of the present policy comment that exporting wheat is tantamount to exporting water, and that agriculture needs a new look. The wheat subsidy should be heavily cut and the barley subsidy increased, they say. The present five-year plan calls for a reduction in both water consumption and wheat production, but neither is happening. The concept of water conservation has yet to take hold in Saudi Arabia, while treatment of waste water is in its infancy.

A land with everything that money can buy

An observer of urban planning might be forgiven for not recognising Riyadh as the same city when looking at photographs from the 1960s and the 1990s, Caroline Montagu writes.

Similarly, a healthcare worker might well refuse to believe that the statistics come from the same country when looking at, say, primary healthcare facilities in the two periods. The same might be true of education, power generation and distribution, telecommunications and much else.

The explosion in Saudi Arabia of social services, physical and social infrastructure, health, education, social insurance and housing since the first oil boom of the early 1970s must be without historical parallel. The ruling Saud family has made valiant and mainly successful efforts to improve the living standards of its compatriots out of all recognition.

While the need for heavy social expenditure in both urban and rural areas would have been obvious on any tour through the country, the family, as good Muslims, would also have been aware of the part of Islam's moral teaching that demands a high level of social responsibility and of care for the less advantaged.

For instance, health, education and other social services have been transformed over the past 25 years. Male life expectancy was 50 years in 1965; in 1989 it was 66. Female life expectancy was 47 in 1965; it was 62 in 1989. In 1965 the death rate was 20 per cent per 1,000; in 1989 it was 8 per cent.

Similarly, the infant mortality rate has dropped, though not yet to the levels of member states of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The result has been a big population increase, caused by higher life expectancy, lower

Public sector spending has transformed Saudi society

infant mortality rates and a higher birth-rate. Among Saudis, as opposed to foreign residents, population growth is 3.7 per cent (very high by world standards).

Population figures for the kingdom are uncertain, but if a realistic level is about eight million Saudis, the population will increase by 25 per cent by 2000 and double in 19 years.

The state has set up social benefits for its citizens from the cradle to the grave. Healthcare is free. According to the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency's last annual report, for 1990, the health ministry runs 163 hospitals and more than

Saudi citizens pay no income tax, but receive many state benefits

1,500 primary healthcare centres, while the Ministry of Defence, the Interior Ministry and the National Guard run another 31 hospitals. The country can be justifiably proud of two specialist hospitals in Riyadh, the King Saud Specialist Hospital and King Khalid Eye Hospital.

Much has been done in education. Islam has always placed a high premium on education for both boys and girls, but it is also a sector in which King Fahd takes a personal interest. The universities are expanding their numbers of both sexes, and the new campus of King Saud University in Riyadh now vies with the well-established and prestigious King Fahd Univer-

sity of Petroleum & Minerals in Dhahran.

Different curricula are taught to boys and girls at school level, girls' education being under a different administration, which is a source of some discontent. At tertiary level, there are mixed universities, separate women's universities and separate Islamic universities for men.

Other benefits for Saudi citizens include state pensions and the absence of any income tax, although Muslims are supposed to pay the annual zakat, a Muslim charitable tax.

In a country the size of Western Europe and with vast tracts of inhospitable desert country and high inaccessible mountains, the need for good communications is essential.

Since the 1970s, expenditure on communications and transportation has been enormous. The telecommunications systems, already good, are now being upgraded, although serious shortages of telephone lines bedevil parts of Jeddah, for instance.

Saudia, the national airline, is an arm of government policy, and runs constantly at a loss. Internal flights are subsidised, so enabling Saudis to get to know the diversity of their country and fellow citizens.

The road system allows large and powerful cars to go extremely fast on six-lane highways and is linking up the remotest areas.

Saudi Arabia takes its responsibilities to Islam seriously. There has been high expenditure in Mecca and Medina, two of the three holy cities of Islam, and on Jeddah's airport terminals and port facilities. The region is the centre of the annual pilgrimage — the hajj — and has pilgrims all the year round. All of its facilities have been expanded and improved, while mosque building has continued throughout the country.



On 23 September 1932, King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud proclaimed a unified Kingdom in the Arabian peninsula. He called it, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This was the culmination of an endeavour that began in 1902, when he succeeded in re-establishing the rule of the House of Saud in the capital Riyadh.

The discovery of one of the world's biggest oil reserves in the Eastern Province of the Kingdom in 1938 helped to fuel the development of the country at an unprecedented rate. In particular during the last two decades Saudi Arabia has been transformed into one of the most prosperous and dynamic of world economies. Infrastructure and the welfare of the people have been developed to match the best anywhere. Yet, the Saudis have remained constant and true to their traditional values and Islamic beliefs. They have progressed beyond recognition, but have remained unchanged!

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Archaeology reveals the desert's secrets

Saudi Arabia faces a gigantic task in dealing with the many archaeological sites that are dotted around its vast territory. More than 10,000 sites have been recorded, and they display a great diversity.

At one extreme are the showpiece sites: Diriyah, the ancient capital of the Nejd, just outside Riyadh, and Madain Salih, the Nabataean monumental centre in the Hijaz mountains. At the other extreme are single rock-carved inscriptions, standing stones, and collections of stone implements.

Dr Abdullah Al Masri, the deputy minister of education, who has special responsibility for antiquities and museums, says that even now not all Saudi Arabia's ancient sites have been surveyed. But he is philosophical about it. "Antiquities are like wealth," he says. "A too rapid depletion of present opportunities will not serve the future well."

As he said this, Dr Al Masri was standing among the ruins and newly restored buildings of Diriyah. This haunting, abandoned town, built in mud brick, was the seat of the House of Saud for more than 500 years, and is now a cultural shrine and a leading tourist attraction.

Madain Salih is far away in the northeast of the country. There in the desert are the great façades carved from the solid rock by the Nabataeans in the 1st century. They match those of their capital at Petra, in modern Jordan, but are spread across an even larger area. The diversity of Saudi archaeology

Variety is the spice of Saudi Arabia's past.
John Herbert reports on 10,000 sites

is shown by the fact that in the same area there are also important relics from the early Islamic period, as well as the remains of the Hijaz railway, destroyed at the instigation of Lawrence of Arabia during the Arab revolt in the first world war.

Saudi Arabia also has the main portion of the *Darb Zubaidah*, an early route dating from the second century of Islam, which allowed tens of thousands of pilgrims to make their way safely from Iraq to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina across more than 600 miles of hostile desert. Large rocks were moved during its construction, and soft sand was strewn on stony ground.

More than 100 stone-lined reservoirs and 54 way stations and fortified resting places survive.

These archaeological riches are threatened by pipelines, roads and airports. There is also a threat from the growing band of amateur archaeologists, mainly expatriate.

Erosion has been a constant factor. A master plan was drawn up, therefore, which called for a period of survey work before any large excavation. This allowed time for assessment of the task and also for training a new generation of conservation experts and archaeologists.

As the inventory built up, it recorded a number of unexplained stone monuments and structures in remote desert areas, and raised the question whether the climate could have been kinder in past ages. The answer was a hesitant "yes", as many very ancient sites are associated with dried-up lake beds.

In the Saffaqah area in central Saudi Arabia, a trial excavation yielded 11,000 stone tools of the Acheulean tradition, which ended 150,000 years ago. Near Al Hanakiyah there are rock carvings approximately 8,000 years old, depicting animals very like the domestic cattle and dogs of today.

It appears that during the last Ice Age in Europe, the Arabian peninsula was once again more temperate. Large parts of the Empty Quarter of Arabia were once taken up by vast freshwater lakes, and the bones of animals have been found on ancient shorelines.

The Saudi universities have played a considerable part in the training of archaeologists. Every year up to 100 students set out from King Saud University in Riyadh for a two-month stay at Qaryat Al Faw, a pre-Islamic site on the edge of the Empty Quarter. Professor Abdulrahman Al Ansari, head of the

archaeology department, sees this site, which flourished between the 4th century BC and the 4th century AD, as an important training ground as well as an exciting challenge.

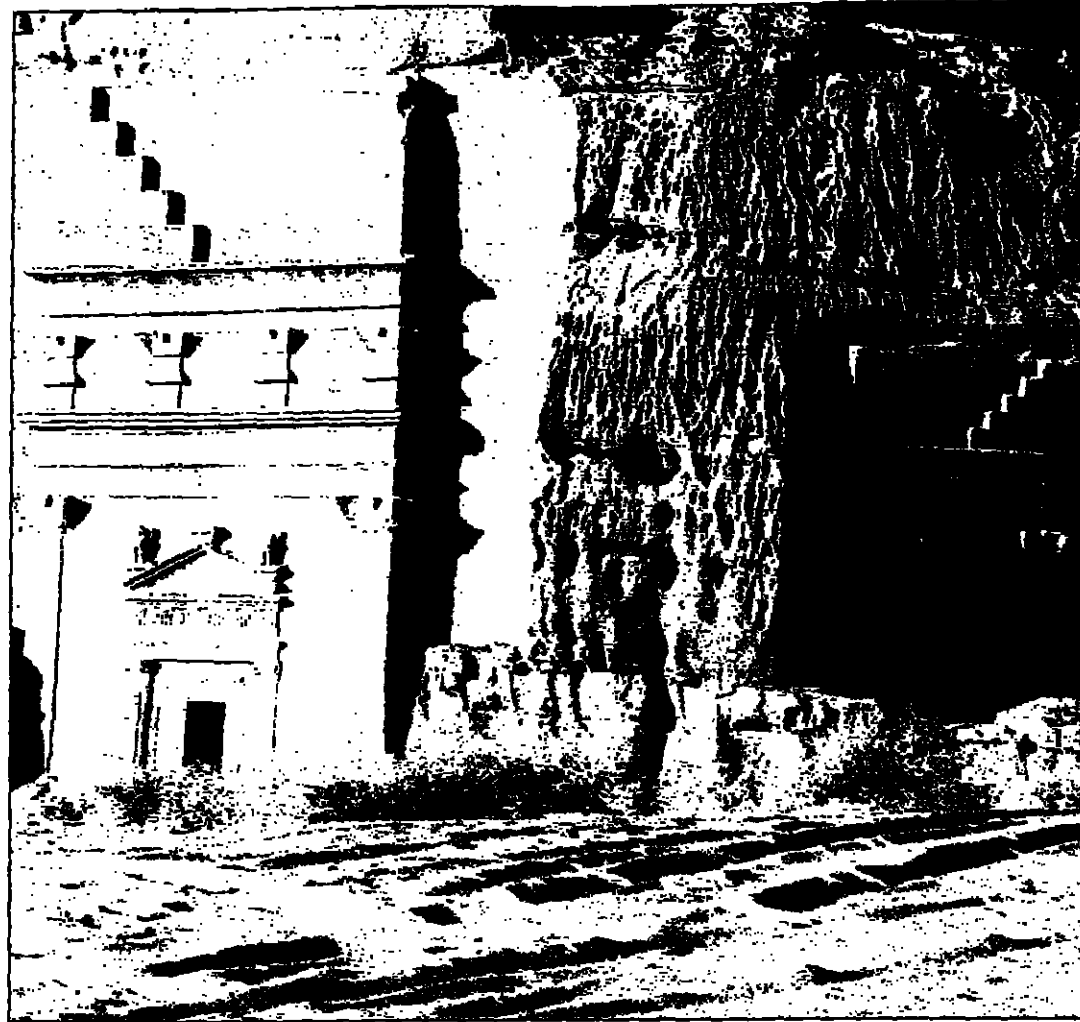
King Saud University is undertaking another excavation at Al Rabadah, a "lost city" from the early years of Islam that was recently discovered by the assiduous detective work of a Saudi scholar.

Other excavations have been carried out at the Babylonian outpost of Tayma in the Hijaz, Najran near the Yemen border, and Al Jawf in the north.

At the last of these, substantial city walls have been emerging from the sands around the ancient settlement, where a fortress dating from the 3rd century BC stands close to one of the oldest mosques of Islam, which is believed to date from the reign of the caliph Umar (634-644).

For reasons of national pride it could have been tempting to build a comprehensive museum in Riyadh, but Dr Abdul Aziz Al Khuwairat, the education minister, and Dr Masri opted instead to establish nine smaller "site museums", spread throughout the country and located close to the main archaeological centres.

The Saudis have shown energy and wisdom in their approach to their heritage and its preservation, and that has much to do with the fact that King Fahd is himself an enthusiastic and knowledgeable historian.



Grandeur in the hills: tomb carved in the rockface by Nabataeans in the 1st century AD

The world power that grew out of obscurity

The land ignored by conquerors later challenged the Americans

The rise of the Saudi kingdom to global prominence is one of the most interesting political and economic phenomena of the 20th century. Only 80 years ago, the fiefdom of Emir Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rahman bin Faisal al-Saud, the founder of modern Saudi Arabia, comprised just the inland desert province of Nejd, nominally part of the Ottoman Empire, but too backward and inhospitable for the Turks to bother about.

Just over 60 years ago, in the world depression of 1931, Abdul Aziz's main income — taxes on pilgrims to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina — dried up, and the treasury was virtually bankrupt. Only when the emir sent his son, the young Prince Faisal, to Moscow to beg for Soviet assistance did the British government, which had supported his rise to power, agree to bail him out.

The next couple of years saw two momentous developments. In September 1932, Abdul Aziz felt confident enough in his rule to declare himself king of Saudi Arabia.

Then in May 1933 an American oil company signed an agreement to prospect for oil. A British engineer, Major Frank Holmes, had already obtained an exclusive licence in 1923 but had done nothing with it. Now the Americans began to supersede the British on the Saudi scene. Oil was discovered by Aramco before the second world war, but revenues really began to flow only after 1947. Within 20 years, Saudi Arabia had become one of the richest countries in the world.

The origins of the Saudi monarchy stretch back much further, to the late 18th century, when Muhammad ibn Saud, the head of a small bedouin sheikhdom in central Arabia, with his base in Diriyah, near modern Riyadh, joined forces with Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab, an itinerant preacher who led a militant Islamic revival movement in his lands. Their joint hostility was directed at the Ottoman sultan, on the grounds that he treated with the infidel West.

In 1806, to show their displeasure, their joint forces occupied the Turkish-controlled city of Mecca. Turkey quickly reasserted its authority, and central Arabia was engulfed by internal conflict as the al-Sauds' long-time rivals, the Rashid clan, which headed the Shammar tribe in the north of modern Saudi Arabia, extended their rule into the Nejd.

Only in the early years of the 20th century did the new head of the al-Sauds, the dynamic young Abdul Aziz, begin to re-establish the Saudi

position. In 1902, he forced the Rashid out of the central Nejd town of Riyadh, which then became his capital.

During the first world war, the Rashid were backed by the Turks, and the British lent support and modern weapons to the al-Sauds. Generally, however, the Saudis played only a minor role in the war. Attention focused on the Hijaz, where the British assisted the local house of Hashem, headed by the wily Sharif Husain of Mecca, in starting the Arab revolt against the Turks.

After the war, London helped Sharif Husain's sons, Faisal and Abdullah, to become kings of Syria (later of Iraq) and Transjordan respectively. But a power vacuum emerged in the Hijaz. In 1924, members of the Ikhwan (literally, brotherhood), the shock troops of the puritanical Wahhabi movement, were prevented from making the Hajj, or pilgrimage to Mecca, on the grounds that they were a threat to foreign pilgrims.

The Ikhwan used this as an excuse to attack the Hijaz, and although Abdul Aziz was forced to rein them back strongly, he finally took over as the new king of the Hijaz in January 1926. Six years later, after tidying up his borders, he was declared king of modern Saudi Arabia. Since then, Saudi monarchs have maintained a slightly uneasy, but utilitarian alliance with the modern Wahhabis. The latter's religious support gives authority to their regime, particularly to their title of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, but Abdul Aziz and his successors have also fought to loosen the shackles of fundamentalism where necessary, notably in matters of economic development and education.

Before he died in 1953, Abdul Aziz had begun to build the trappings of a modern state. His eldest son and successor, Saud, proved unequal to the job, and the regime regained its momentum only after Faisal was crowned in 1964.

By the time of the Arab-Israeli war of October 1973, Saudi Arabia was rich and strong enough to challenge its protector, the United States, over its support for Israel. But the kingdom was shaken by the assassination of King Faisal in 1975 and the rebellion that led to the assault on the Grand Mosque in Mecca in 1979.

King Faisal was succeeded by his brother, King Khalid, and then, when he died in 1982, by another of King Abdul Aziz's many sons, the present King Fahd, who is 11 years older than his kingdom.

ANDREW LYCETT



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Sevilla clear way for £4.5m Maradona move

DIEGO Maradona's rehabilitation is all but complete. Eighteen months after his career seemed about to freefall into oblivion and retirement after a series of drug-related scandals, the Argentinian is set to return to the game in the Spanish city of Seville.

The comeback path was finally cleared yesterday when Napoli, the Italian club, agreed to sell the player who had led them to their two league championships to Sevilla for £4.5 million. After weeks of protracted, often turbulent, negotiations, the clubs reached a settlement during a five-hour meeting at the headquarters of Fifa, the game's world governing body, in Zurich.

Already, Maradona's debut has been pencilled in for next Monday in a pre-arranged friendly with Bayern Munich — although the Germans have yet to confirm they will fulfil the fixture. It will be the first

game he has played since a 15-month suspension was imposed by Fifa after traces of cocaine were discovered in a drug test. Indeed, he is still undergoing treatment for his drug use.

Predictably, Maradona was in emotional mood as news of the deal was confirmed. "My happiness is complete," he said at his hotel in Seville. "I am free to play football and my family is here. It is a great joy. I am coming back with new colleagues in a new country and in a city where I have been treated marvelously."

As ever with Maradona, negotiations were anything but straightforward. Napoli had said, from the outset, that they were not prepared to part with him despite Maradona's chequered history with the club. He, in turn, refused to return to Naples. When pressed to honour the remaining year of his contract, he set

The brilliant but controversial Argentinian is ready to add another chapter to his remarkable story, Peter Robinson reports

a string of conditions that he knew the club would reject.

Under normal circumstances, that might have resulted in an impasse, but Maradona had a powerful ally — Fifa. Overseeing a sport that has, of late, looked short of colourful personalities and with a World Cup finals to sell in the United States in two years' time, the game's governors have been increasingly active in support of Maradona. Last night, Alfio Basile, the Argentina manager, promised Maradona would return to the international scene at the first chance.

Nevertheless, the talks appeared to have broken down several times within the last week as a recalcitrant Napoli

rejected Sevilla's offer of £2.5 million and a truculent Maradona threatened to retire from the game altogether. Fifa then intervened, decisively, once more.

Several conditions have been attached. Maradona has agreed not to play in Italy for the next two years while the fee — involving an initial £2 million payment followed by four six-monthly instalments — will cover his outstanding debts in Italy. Sepp Blatter, Fifa's general secretary, said the international body expects him to "stop making insulting comments against football leaders — club, federation and international".

Thus Maradona's chequered career takes him to

Spain for the second time. He was the world's most expensive footballer when he joined Barcelona from Boca Juniors for £3 million in 1982, but high hopes faded as he suffered a bout of hepatitis, had his leg broken in an infamous tackle by the Athletic Bilbao defender, Andoni Goicoechea, and was involved in a fight with Bilbao players in the Spanish cup final.

His spell in Napoli, after a record £5 million move in 1984, was much happier — initially, at least. He led the club to league titles in 1987 and 1990 plus the UEFA Cup in 1989. But, under increasing pressure in Italy, the strain began to tell. He failed a drugs test in March last year and was investigated by police looking into a Naples-based drugs and prostitution ring. A month later, in Buenos Aires, he was arrested for another cocaine offence and ordered by the country's courts to begin

a rehabilitation programme. Now, apparently recovered, Sevilla would seem to offer the ideal stage for his return. Managed by his friend Carlos Bilardo, the former manager of Argentina, the club is free of the pressures of Napoli and Barcelona. Yesterday, looking as fit as he has done for a long time, he pleaded for patience. "With the eagerness that I have, I can play a good game for 45 minutes and if the people in Seville are with me, that's what will put wind in my sails," he said.

CAREER

DIEGO ARMANDO MARADONA
Born: Buenos Aires, October 30, 1960
First club: Argentina Juniors
Transfers: January 1981: Argentina Juniors to Boca Juniors, £1m; July 1982: Boca Juniors to Barcelona, £3m; July 1984: Barcelona to Napoli, £5m; September 1992: Napoli to Sevilla, £4.5m.
Career highlights: World Cup: winner, 1986; runner-up, 1990; Italian League: winner, 1987, 1990; UEFA Cup: 1989; international caps: 74.



Point to make: Maradona in buoyant mood yesterday

Former manager wants new offside law

Nicholson issues fierce criticism of modern game

By LOUISE TAYLOR

BILL Nicholson yesterday turned a prize-giving lunch intended to serve as a public relations exercise for football into the launch pad for a stinging attack on the modern game.

Nicholson, who managed the Tottenham Hotspur team that won the League and FA Cup double in 1961, was in London to accept a Barclays Bank "good news" award from the sponsors of the Football League, on behalf of Terry Venables, Tottenham's chief executive.

Barclays officials, who were expecting a "good news" speech, winced visibly as Nicholson said: "I can't understand how people can pay excessive amounts to watch football the way it is played today. I

watched Tottenham play Brentford on Monday night and I was very disappointed with what I saw.

"In my day, it was all about players finding space, but now I see that a lot of the principles we used to follow simply don't apply any more. Finding space used to mean finding time to play because time is important in the game, but there is no space on the field any more.

"I want to see something happening in the game, something that helps the players and spectators to enjoy it. But how can it happen when players are congested in seven-and-a-half yards either side of the halfway line? In that situation, time and space is tight and if you miscalculate it

you haven't got the ball any more."

Nicholson then advocated the introduction of a change in the offside law to open up the game. He believed two white lines should be drawn across the width of the pitch, one in each half 15 yards from the centre spot.

"Inside those 30 yards, we should say you can't be offside," he said. "I believe the game would be a hell of a lot better for it." Ironically, Venables is a leading exponent of the offside game, which has been a feature of his teams over the years.

Nicholson finished by apologising to the gathering for introducing a sour note at a ceremony to hand out awards to football people who create "good news" in the game.

Although Tottenham's football proved a disappointment last season, Venables gained the award because he had, in the words of Barclays, "eliminated most of Tottenham's daunting debts".

Other winners of the Barclays awards were Danny Bergara, the Stockport County manager, Lennie Lawrence, the Middlesbrough manager, Lee Chapman, the Leeds United forward, and Carlton Palmer, the Sheffield Wednesday and England midfielder.

Barely had Barclays officials had time to recover from listening to Nicholson than Gordon Taylor walked into the room and immediately set about endorsing almost everything the former Tottenham manager had said.

Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, expressed concern that football is now a game for "power athletes" as opposed to skilled individuals. "Because of the pace, the power and its physical nature, football is becoming more of a direct, percentage game. But that sort of football has never succeeded at the highest international level," he said.



Blanc being sought by Nottingham Forest to strengthen their porous defence

Marker signs for Blackburn

By LOUISE TAYLOR

KENNY Dalglish yesterday completed the signing of Nicky Marker, a central defender or, midfield player, from Plymouth Argyle. The Devonian, 27, will cost Blackburn Rovers £250,000, with Craig Skinner and Keith Hill, two Rovers reserves, joining Plymouth.

It was a relatively modest deal for Dalglish, who was disappointed when Craig Short opted to join Derby County rather than Blackburn for £2.5 million last week.

Brian Clough's search for a replacement for Des Walker,

the former Nottingham Forest defender who joined Sampdoria during the summer, could end in Italy today.

The Forest manager was yesterday poised to sign Laurent Blanc, the French international defender, from Napoli. Blanc, who played for France in the European championship this summer, has been unable to command a first team place at Napoli.

Ron Fenton, Clough's assistant, said: "We have got to be interested when a player of his calibre becomes available. We would like the possibility of

having Blanc on loan initially, as Leeds United did when they first signed Eric Cantona."

Forest, who drew 1-1 with Coventry on Monday night, have conceded 19 goals in seven games since their 1-0 win over Liverpool on the opening day of the season. That has left them bottom of the Premier League, but Clough dismissed reports that he was about to part company with Forest as "ridiculous".

Chelsea are showing an interest in buying Vince Bartram, 24, the Bournemouth goalkeeper.

Underwood in reckoning for England again

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RORY Underwood, England's most capped player, is back in the international reckoning. Last night he released a statement offering himself once more for selection for his country and for the British Isles tour to New Zealand next year.

The Leicester wing has been able to reverse his earlier decision, made last March, after the Royal Air Force, in which he is a flight lieutenant, agreed to the deferment of his planned fast-jet course at Chivenor in November. Even so, it will come as an agreeable surprise to England's selectors and to his many supporters who were dismayed to see him withdraw from international contention at the age of 28.

Ironically Underwood's decision coincides with the release of his autobiography in which he explains the reasons for his desire to quit the international scene after eight years and 55 caps — and more tries, 35, than any other player has scored for England. Underwood is the third-highest try-scorer in the world, after David Campese and Serge Blanco and could certainly overtake the French full back, now retired, who is only three tries ahead of him.

"Throughout last season I had been growing increasingly tired of the travelling, training, and time away from my wife and family (he has two young daughters)," Underwood said. "It had been a very hard two years, starting with the Lions tour of Australia and including England's tour of Australia and Fiji, two Grand Slams and a World Cup."

"I still loved playing, but other aspects of the game were becoming a chore. Having decided to step down from international rugby I applied, and was subsequently selected,

for an intensive fast-jet cross-over course at Chivenor. About a month ago, after a summer without rugby, I started to reassess the situation.

"England have achieved great things in recent years, achievements of which I am intensely proud. Playing for one's country is the greatest honour in the game." Clearly that honour drew Underwood back though not before he had discussed the situation with his wife, Wendy, and his immediate superiors in the RAF; their willingness to accommodate his request for a deferment was a major factor.

Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, said: "I am delighted because I think he is at the peak of his powers. He still has a major part to play for England and, if he wants it, the Lions." Underwood is likely to join the national training squad this weekend though he will not be available for next month's international with Canada.

There are some tremendous challenges ahead," Underwood said. "No side has ever won three consecutive Grand Slams and a Lions party has not toured New Zealand successfully since 1971." The only definite absentee from last season's Grand Slam XV is now Simon Halliday but one of the ironies of Underwood's return is that his younger brother, Tony, will have to work even harder to win his first cap; he, too, is a wing.

England have added Simon Hodgkinson, the 1991 Grand Slam full back, and Alan Buzza to this weekend's training squad. The addition of the two full backs from Nottingham and Warrington respectively comes after the injury to David Pears (Harlequins) sustained last weekend.

A late berth becomes available for locum

By BARRY PICKTHALL

AN URGENT call went up for a doctor at Ocean Village yesterday after Andrew O'Connor, the Irish medic who was due to have been aboard the British Steel Challenge yacht, Nuclear Electric, was forced to withdraw from the round the world race just four days before the start.

O'Connor was in Texas last night nursing his wife after she had been taken ill. He must miss the first stage of the race from Southampton to Rio de Janeiro.

O'Connor, 47, who practises in the United States, had set his heart on sailing round the world and was one of Chay Blyth's first recruits when he threw down his challenge two years ago.

Now O'Connor's only hope is that his wife's condition will improve sufficiently during the next six weeks to allow him to rejoin the yacht for the later stages of the race — around Cape Horn to Hobart, Cape Town and back to Southampton.

His absence presents Blyth with a serious problem. He has a 350-strong list of men and women who will readily

trade their eye-teeth, not to mention the £15,000 entry fee, for a place on one of the 10 yachts, but none has any medical experience.

"We have a doctor or trained medic aboard each of the other yachts, so if there is an emergency on Nuclear Electric there will be plenty of advice available over the radio. But I would be much happier if we can get a doctor to step forward during the next three days to sail on this first leg at least," Blyth said yesterday.

Remarkably, O'Connor is one of only 27 of Blyth's recruits to have dropped out. Initially 184 signed up to race around the world two years ago.

One broke his ankle a few weeks ago, another slipped a disc, and several others, including two Lloyds names, have been forced out by the recession. Only one has thrown in the towel because of sea-sickness.

The number of withdrawals might well have been 28 had David Arthur, a crewman aboard British Steel II, not made a good recovery from a broken leg.

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WEMBLEY STADIUM



Dutch wary before Norwegian visit

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

GOOD news may be in short supply for Graham Taylor at the moment, but the England manager can draw heart from the problems that have already beset Holland's World Cup qualifying campaign. The Dutch, England's greatest rivals for one of the two qualifying berths from group two, are curiously short of confidence before tonight's meeting with Norway in Oslo.

Normally, the Norwegians would hold few fears for the Dutch. Holland are one of the strongest sides in the world and fresh from an agonisingly narrow defeat by Denmark in the European championship, while their hosts are traditionally one of football's minnows.

On this occasion, however, Norway pose a formidable threat, still bubbling after a

record 10-0 trouncing of San Marino earlier this month.

Holland, in contrast, have a squad already depleted by injuries, withdrawals and a striking lack of motivation. The loss of Hans van Breukelen, the goalkeeper, and Adri van Tiggelen, a defender, to injury was compounded by Rudi Gullit's withdrawal from the squad for "personal reasons" last week.

His future at AC Milan increasingly uncertain, Gullit felt he was unable to reach the standard required of him at international level.

Equally worrying for the Dutch coach, Dick Advocaat, is the general malaise that seems to have afflicted his squad.

He is clearly having problems inspiring his players who, in some cases, are convinced that they will be involved in the finals themselves

in the United States in 1994.

The Norwegians have no serious injury problems and plan to field the same 11 that beat San Marino which means Gunnar Halle, the Oldham Athletic, will keep his place.

Also in group two, Poland have problems for the visit of Turkey. They will have only fourteen players to choose from after five withdrew from the squad this week — Lapinski and Adamczuk with injuries, Kozminski, of Udinese, and Wandzik and Warzycha, of Panathinaikos, because they have not been freed by their clubs. In addition, the remainder of the squad are planning to set up a Polish players' union because, they feel, they are getting little recognition from the Polish football authorities.

In group three, Spain travel to Latvia without their mid-

field player, Michel, who was injured in Real Madrid's 0-0 draw with Sporting Gijon at the weekend.

Josep Guardiola, of Barcelona, is likely to replace him. Otherwise, Spain will rely on the players who defeated England 1-0 in Santander earlier this month. It will be their second match in the group, following a comfortable 3-0 home success over Albania.

Latvia, still looking for a first victory in the group, were beaten 4-0 in Dublin by the Republic of Ireland and 2-1 in Riga's Daugava Stadium by Lithuania. However, they have forced a 1-1 draw with the new European champions, Denmark.

The Danes, meanwhile, play their second qualifying game against Lithuania, who have that victory against Latvia and a draw against Northern Ireland behind them.

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WOMEN p5

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LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23 1992

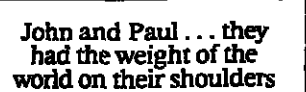
Why sponsors help the arts

All you need is luck and a lens

Linda McCartney's 1960s are revealed, in portraits and prose

Linda Eastman, glossy magazine receptionist, became an instant photographer in 1966 when she stole an invitation from her office to a Rolling Stones press trip up the Hudson river. While the other photographers were turned away, the mini-skirted strawberry blonde sailed on board. She may have forgotten to change the ASA to colour but her blurred black and white photographs meant that she was able to quit the office for ever.

Entering the super-cool world of rock journalism, Ms Eastman turned her back on her affluent, middle-class upbringing (although the story that she was an heiress, related to the film family Eastman Kodak, was untrue). She spent three years photographing 1960s idols before committing herself to legend by marrying Paul McCartney in 1969. Tomorrow Pyramid publish *Sixties: Portrait Of An Era* (E30), a photographic memoir by Linda McCartney (the definitive



John and Paul... they had the weight of the world on their shoulders

collection of rock 'n' roll pictures, her husband says. "I wanted to record what was there - every blensh, every bit of beauty, every emotion," she writes in the accompanying text. "It was an incredible time for all of us... We all knew something was happening but it hadn't been discovered yet."

Linda discovered it. She mothered The Doors. "Jim [Morrison] was essentially a shy person. He never thought of himself as resembling the glamorous image that made him appear so confident. Maybe he felt deprived of real, meaningful love." She photographed his anguished face grimacing in the rain.

Then there is Keith Moon in lace cravat, B.B. King lost in his guitar Lucille ("I photographed him so many times that it became like meeting the postman"), a gauche Jimi Hendrix sucking his glasses.

The women of the generation remain insignificant. Janis Joplin slips through but gets a pretty rough, pock-dotted ride. "Janis and I became friends but we were never very close... she was a pretty tough broad and I was a pretty sensitive broad... I felt sorry for her."

And then there are the Beatles, the group that she loved right from the start and coyly photographed while still the demure girlfriend. She captured their last, painful moments together before she and Paul disappeared to their Scottish farm.

The photographs are particular to their era, rather than timeless. There are spindly white legs, peace signs and the endless pictures of dippy days with nature in the park. She never used flash, "too artificial", and technically she never matured much. But she was always there.

Perhaps more than all these photos there is Linda, and her words remind us what we might be glad to have missed in the 1960s: "I'm into nature and the seasons and blossoms and snowflakes and I'm not keen to follow the line that everyone else is following. I'm into life."

ALICE THOMSON

Business sponsorship now provides a vital, if contentious, lifeline to the arts. Here the two sides - the sponsor and the sponsored - give their views: **Waldemar Januszczak** (below), of Channel 4, and **Piers Rodgers** (right), of the Royal Academy

Having always loathed what one might call sponsorship - the marquee full of smoked salmon and champagne, the free flow of the corporate champagne compared with the reluctant drip of the sponsorship money - having hated all these things, I obviously found myself in a seriously confused position when I set about persuading Channel 4 to sponsor the Tate Gallery's Turner Prize.

After all, I had just spent ten years as an art critic of *The Guardian* warning my readers to beware of sponsors. Indeed, one of my favourite targets was the Turner Prize itself, particularly when the former Wall Street powerhouse, Drexel Burnham Lambert, took over its sponsorship - three years before the company filed for bankruptcy after pleading guilty to securities fraud and paying \$650 million in fines.

Nevertheless, the demise of DBL quickly followed by the temporary demise of the Turner Prize came as a sad shock. Having reluctantly embraced the mad money-culture of the Eighties, the Tate Gallery had been let down badly by fair-weather friends.

To my enormous surprise, I found myself missing the Turner Prize. In particular, that sense you always had that modern art was coming out of the closet when Turner Prize time came around. The same afternoon I read the result of the DBL court case I wrote two notes, one to my new boss, Michael Grade, suggesting that if Channel 4 moved quickly we could become the new sponsors of the Turner Prize, and the other to the director of the Tate Gallery, Nicholas Serota, asking him to keep us informed of developments.

Channel 4 is a reluctant sponsor. Television companies already spend enough money promoting the arts in their arts programmes without adding the external burden of sponsorship. Given how few people watch them, it could be argued that every single *Late Show* or *South Bank Show* is a generous act of sponsorship on the part of the TV company. Prior to the Turner Prize Channel 4 had stuck a nervous toe into the corporate crocodile-pond by supporting the work of Opera Factory. But the



Helping hand for modern art: Fiona Rae's oil painting *Untitled (red, yellow and blue triptych)* was shortlisted for last year's Turner Prize

policy was to spend on programmes, not puffs and prizes.

Sponsors sponsor for a variety of reasons, none of them selfless: perhaps Drexel Burnham Lambert did it to enhance its reputation, others do it to bathe in reflected glory. In this age of sponsored television where Beamish brings you Morse and Powney brings you the weather, being a TV company that sponsors allows you to experience at first hand the horrible behaviour of other would-be sponsors.

Although I suppose the quest for the right sort of corporate identity was a factor in Channel 4's decision to back the Turner Prize, the principal reason was to obtain two hours of quality arts television that would otherwise have disappeared.

One of the few healthy things about sponsorship is that it forces unlikely partners into bed with each other. Thin experimental dancers in jeans have to think of something to say to fat middle-aged businessmen in suits. Company hustlers who could normally sell

sand in the Sahara find they cannot sell their brash poster campaign to the little old lady who runs the publicity for the Bingham Amateur Theatrical Society Easter Weekend.

Channel 4's relationship with the Tate has been a little like that. We are clearly perceived to be corporate wide-boys who need to be watched sitting in the office (in the sponsorship department which every self-respecting organisation now possesses) with a list of potential "victims", agonising over which of them is likely to respond to the approach which is about to be made to them.

Sponsorship is a fact of life for a place like the Royal Academy of Arts. In the absence of any grant aid from the government, the Arts Council, Westminster or any other public purse, it has become quite simply a condition of survival. Without it we could mount none of the great exhibitions which draw a million people to Burlington House each year.

Of course, there was a time "before sponsorship". In the Academy's case that was back in the mid-Seventies. How did we do without? Well, the cost of things was less; like most artistic productions, exhibitions are labour intensive and their cost has gone up far faster than inflation. We also have to meet much more exacting, and expensive, standards for the transport, handling and display of great works of art.

Putting on exhibitions is costly; it is also risky. The risk is almost entirely on the income side: the attendance at an exhibition is just as difficult to forecast as the success of a musical. In some ways the risk is greater: you cannot keep a successful exhibition on, nor can

you close an empty one early. The Academy has pioneered a system of underwriting for its exhibitions. The sponsor guarantees to cover the net cost (after taking the gate money and the catalogue sales into account) up to an agreed maximum. The guarantee is called upon only to the extent that it is required. Some lucky sponsors have not had to pay anything at all. Others pay the full whack and many fall in between.

I have always liked the system of guarantees, for two reasons. I believe that the idea of taking a risk (and possibly backing a winner) is one which appeals to the entrepreneurial spirit, and may have won some sponsorship we might not otherwise have had. It also has a happy effect on the relationship between the sponsor and the Academy as we work together to minimise that risk.

Whether a company's support takes the form of a grant or a guarantee, a partnership is forged (in everything except the legal sense) and it is a straightforward business partnership. We are not asking for charity from our sponsors, and at the end of the day we will bill them "for services rendered". Just what those services are may vary considerably, but they range from the usual acknowledgements and other direct and indirect forms of publicity, to entertainment for sponsor's guests and clients, and privileges for their staff and readers (readers of *The Times* will have special opportunities to see the current exhibition of "The Sacred Art of Tibet").

The Eighties were a period of growth in sponsorship, as they were in the economy, and ABSA (Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts) has played an important role, particularly in bringing new sponsors to the table. The decade also saw an increasing professionalism among the sponsors and the sponsored, with fully-fledged sponsorship departments springing up on both sides.

Alas, the Nineties present a very different picture for an institution like the Royal Academy. Sponsorship budgets have been axed, or severely cut back, and that falls particularly hard on the high-profile, relatively expensive things.

In any case, there is a discernible tendency towards the more modest, community-based, out-of-town - or at least geographically distinct - project, and away from the prestigious central London event with national appeal. Perhaps it is a symptom of the recession: there is an understandable reluctance to be seen to be spending money in this way - even when fully justified in commercial and artistic terms - while unemployment rises.

For all that, sponsorship is certainly not on the way out, but the search for sponsors has become more arduous; it calls for a lot more research and that can lead the art institution into some unexpected areas. Who would have expected the co-sponsors (apart from *The Times*) of the Royal Academy's current Tibetan show to be an eyewear company (Silhouette Eyewear) which has just launched a "Tibet" range of spectacles (complete with prayer wheels) and a partnership of two Swedish property men (Vistech International/Redab (U.K.)) who care passionately about the ecological damage which has been done to the "Roof of the World"?

Piers Rodgers is secretary of the Royal Academy of Arts.

The shortlist for this year's ABSA/Arthur Andersen Awards, in association with *The Times*, will be announced at the end of October; the awards are to be presented in December by the Prince of Wales.

Times sponsors ABSA Awards

The Times is co-sponsoring this year's ABSA/Arthur Andersen Awards, the annual recognition for outstanding contribution to business sponsorship of the arts. The awards were started in 1978 by the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts to highlight the best examples of arts sponsorship. There are now ten categories, with over 400 nominations each year. Winners have included Royal Insurance (for its support of the Royal Shakespeare Company), Digital, the computer giant (which has won four awards), and Coombs and Son, a bakery which committed its Christmas advertising budget to sponsoring Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in Leicester. The Times is currently sponsoring the *Civil War* exhibition (in Worcester next week) and is co-sponsor of the Royal Academy's Tibet exhibition.

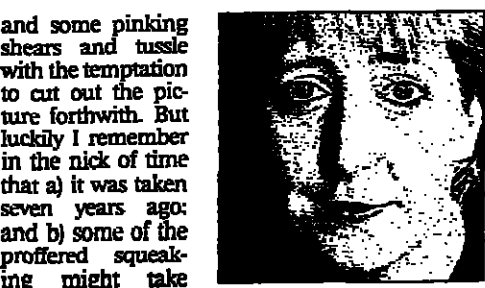
Mad, bad and dangerous to know

SINGLE LIFE: Lynne Truss on pictures that tell a most unpleasant story

The bit that always stops me dead is where it says "Photo appreciated". Up to then I am fine, almost excited. I can even entertain the pathetic notion that I am being singled out personally. "Intellectual. Andre Agassi lookalike with steady job" (it says) "seeks lonely cat-fixer Teddy-woman for evenings of mutual squeaks. Extensive knowledge of *EastEnders* an advantage. My dream lady has clean TV licence, an interest in the fashion potential of household fluff, and a Jeff Bridges video collection. Please write to Box 213. Oh, and I nearly forgot. Photo appreciated."

"Damn." I yell, and head-butt the bath-taps. Bleeding from the brow, I stab wildly at the Lonely Hearts column speechless with frustration. There he is! Mister Dreamboat himself! But he wants a photo! And now we can never meet because I don't have any pictures. What a personal disaster. "Perhaps you could send your Single Life picture?" ventures a passing cat-sort-of telepathically. "Hah!" I shout. "How can I send a newspaper clipping, you fur-faced poltroon! Besides, this picture gives most people the impression I am 93!"

I clamber from the bath, press a towel to my head, and go through the usual frantic motions of searching the flat for a suitable picture. But while I rifle my home with all the gusto of the professional burglar, I know there is no chance whatever of success. In the end, in desperation, I grab my passport



where all the personality and humour has been pulled out with it and took the lot. To this list a few new elements have been added recently. For example, Jeanette Winterston (famously self-effacing author of *Written on the Body*) has added Challenging, Bloody-Minded and Eyes that Follow You Around the Room. Pictures of women authors sometimes have a verge-of-tears quality, reminiscent of Julia Margaret Cameron's famous picture *Despair*, which was achieved by locking the juvenile sister in a cupboard for a couple of hours beforehand. Jeanette Winterston does not look like someone recently emerged from a cupboard. She does, however, resemble a person who has just locked someone else in a cupboard, and put the key down the lav.

Meanwhile, what do I do about the Andre Agassi man? If I don't send a picture, he will smell a rat. Perhaps I should get a heap of coins and take residence in a Photome booth for the afternoon, trying out statements. Think moody. Think mad. Think grumpy. But what I don't understand is this. Given that the mad, brainy, sincere look is only a pretence, why not go for something a bit more dramatic? Such as *Livid*, *Amnesiac*, *Paranoid*, or *Escaping from Wolves*? Unfortunately I shall have to settle for *Concussed by Bathroom Appliance*. Which probably means that my photo won't be appreciated very much, after all.

Evidently authors may choose three (not more) of these qualities and put them together in subtle combinations. Thus, taking a random selection from the bookshelves, one finds that the Ian McEwan of *Black Dogs*, say, has opted for brainy, anxious and mad; that Martin Amis, formerly brainy, supercilious and dangerous (*London Fields*) has now daringly regrouped as brainy, sincere and anxious (*Time's Arrow*). And Nigel Williams (*They Came from SW19*) has achieved an amazing triple - of brainily sensitive, sincerely sensitive and sensitively grumpy.

For women the range is smaller and doesn't include Brainy. That's

just the way it is. Traditionally women could choose from Clever, Nice, Shiny, Well made-up and Pet-owning, but usually said to hell with it and took the lot. To this list a few new elements have been added recently. For example, Jeanette Winterston (famously self-effacing author of *Written on the Body*) has added Challenging, Bloody-Minded and Eyes that Follow You Around the Room. Pictures of women authors sometimes have a verge-of-tears quality, reminiscent of Julia Margaret Cameron's famous picture *Despair*, which was achieved by locking the juvenile sister in a cupboard for a couple of hours beforehand. Jeanette Winterston does not look like someone recently emerged from a cupboard. She does, however, resemble a person who has just locked someone else in a cupboard, and put the key down the lav.

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RIGOLETTO: Jonathan Miller's sturdy 1990s-style production of the Verdi opera is revived by English National Opera. John Rutherford sings Rigoletto, Arthur Davies as the Duke and Kathryn Pope, Gilda. Michael Lloyd conducts. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 0JH 01-436 3161, 7.30pm.

LA VOIX HUMAINE: Mannequin Helgen performs Poulenc's one-act opera for solo soprano, representing one side of a telephone conversation between a woman and the lover who is abandoning her. Clare Gascon directs. Theatre Museum, 14 Tordoff Street, London WC2 0JH 01-436 2330, tonight-Sat, 7.30pm.

TOM ROBINSON: The songwriter who had considerable success during the Seventies with his such as "2-4-6-8 Motorway" and "Glad to be Gay" makes a return to the recording studio in a solo setting. A new album *Living in a Room* is set to find Robinson at his acoustic best and is released to coincide with a nationwide tour. Riverside, Newcastle 01-261 4386, tonight, 7.30pm. Arts Centre, Darlington (0325 483188), tomorrow, 7.30pm. Town Hall, Cheltenham (0242 525690), Sat, 8pm. Arts Centre, Gateshead, Stafford (0785 54653), Sun, 7pm.

BABES IN TOYLAND: This all-girl group, in cranking form on their new album *Fortunate*, peddle a listening brand of rock. Town & Country Club, London, NW5, tonight, 7.30pm. Belgrave Cinema, East Wey (0273 202881), tomorrow, 8pm. Wroughton Centre, Milton Keynes (0906 660992), Fri, 8pm.

LIBERATED REALISM: The main emphasis in this new show of the gallery's speciality, art from the former eastern bloc, shifts from artists who

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

have stayed put to artists who have moved west. Principal among them are the Macedonian Bobby Acevski-Popo, who paints large, brightly coloured, family portraits; and composer, the Russian husband-and-wife team Janet and Emmanuel Shtokovskiy, whose poised yet whimsical pictures make great play with intricately textured paint and the Ukrainian Shanon Oshchayn, who does the sort of thing the Surrealists did in the Twenties, but with a decidedly contemporary twist. Roy Miles Gallery, 29 Bruton Street, London W1 01-495 4747, Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat, 9am-1pm, until Oct 7.

THE PAINTED NUDE: Up until the time of Ely in the early 19th century the nude in Britain generally represented an excuse, however transparent, in the shape of a subject from classical myth or a biblical story such as Susanna and the Elders. The nude in painting gradually became accepted in its own right, until today it can be the major occupation of a painter such as Lucian Freud without raised eyebrows. This new display at the Tate, the second in the Concurrence series, charts the history of this change from the gallery's own collection.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING: After his recent starring performance in *My Darling Clementine*, the Romanian director Alexandru Darie applies his

ingenuity to another of Shakespeare's plays. This is a co-production with the respected Oxford Stage Company and will tour the regions in November.

EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN: Salford Music Theatre, a new group committed to the performance of new music theatre and opera, presents its first production in *Hamlet*. The one-woman show comprises six short musical sequences exploring female personalities, both famous and infamous. Susannah Self who has worked with the Royal Opera and Glyndebourne, plays the women. Postmodern Theatre, 28 Heath Street, London NW3 01-435 6757, tonight-Sun, 8pm.

LADY ADE: Chardonnay Productions presents Yoko Ishida's new play, transformed into a modern mystery where two women torment their souls for the love of one man. New End, 27 New End, London NW3 01-794 0022, preview tonight, 8.45pm, opens tomorrow, 9.45pm.

EXCESS XS: Kevin Fegan's play with music by Steve Moran brings the city's club and rave scene onto the stage. High energy occasion. Contact, Oxford Road, Manchester M6 2 4400, preview tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, opens Fri, 7.30pm.

SINFONIE: Steven Wishan conducts a programme, "Songs of the Iberian Kings", featuring music from the court of Alfonso X of Castile (1221-1284) and his grandson, Denis of Portugal (1267-1325), both prominent figures of the Galician-Portuguese lyric school. Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 01-792 8800, 8pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

MEDEA: Diana Rigg gives a cool, distancing interpretation in Euripides' revenge drama. Almeida, Almeida Street, NW1 359 4404, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm, 90mins.

MURDER BY MISADVENTURE: Gerald Harper and William Gunt play out a comedy of errors as the two wretched wits against each other: run-of-the-mill thriller. Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 01-797 1119, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm, 120mins.

PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME: Brian Fyfe's affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant and his coming home. e.g. a revival to be cherished. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, W1 01-497 1116, Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 140mins.

THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE: Terence performance by Alison Lockwood as the raucous dominatrix in Jim Carver's play about dreams, shyness and horrible mothers. Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 01-797 1119, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm, 120mins.

SHADES: Pauline Collins looks between her child, man and manhood in Sherrin Macdonald's disappointing new play, only sporadically absorbing. Royal Court, 130 Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 01-497 1116, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm, 120mins.

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION: Starring as the rich new York tycoon transformed by a black cat in John Guare's fine play. Comedy, Fanny Street, SW1 01-797 1119, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm, 120mins.

SOMEONE WHO'S WATCHING ME: Excellent playing by Alec McCowen, James McDaniel and Stephen Rea as Beirut hostages in Frank McGuinness's new play. Vaudeville, The Strand, WC2 01-436 2867, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 140mins.

VALENTINE'S DAY: Shaw's *You Never Can Tell* with music added and newly enjoyed enjoyable *Straw Hat*. Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 01-494 5065, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 150mins.

A WOMAN KILLED WITH KINDNESS: Michael Maloney and Saks Reeves in an Elizabethan domestic tragedy played with telling details. The Pit, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2 01-438 8891, tonight, 7.15pm, 180mins.

A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE: Philip Prowse's triumphant RSC production. John Carls as a callous aristocrat in Wilde's social melodrama. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 01-792 8800, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm, 120mins.

LONG RUNNERS: *Blood Brothers*. Phoenix 01-667 1041. *Buddy*. Victoria Palace 01-434 1317. *Caroline*. London Old Vic 01-432 7618. *Clare*. New London 01-436 0072. *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Phoenix 01-434 5045. *Goodnight Beethoven*. Phoenix 01-434 5045. *Goodnight Beethoven*. Phoenix 01-434 5045. *Goodnight Beethoven*. Phoenix 01-434 5045.

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and further afield indicated with the symbol Φ on release across the country

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN (PG): Bostons, cheered salute to wartime's all-girl baseball team. Good. Hanks and, inconspicuously, Madonna. Director, Penny Marshall. MGM Chelsea (01-752 5056) MGM Old Street (01-752 5056) MGM Old Street (01-752 5056) MGM Old Street (01-752 5056).

UNFORGIVEN (15): Clint Eastwood's mellowed gunman is forced to resurrect his lethal skills. Miraculously resonant, reflective Western. Gene Hackman, Morgan Freeman. Richard Doolittle. Camden Place (01-485 2443) Empire (01-497 9999) MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634) MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634) MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634) MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634).

HOUSEFITTER (PG): Golden Haver makes his directorial debut as a comedy about a man who moves into a house and finds it's his. A few bright spots, mostly very trying. Director, Frank Oz. Camden Place (01-485 2443) Empire (01-497 9999) MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634) MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634) MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634) MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634).

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of the new black cinema, directed by Sofia Lee's cameraman, Emel S. Dickson. Omar Epps, Tupac Shakur. MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634) MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634) MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634) MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634).

LETHAL WEAPON 3 (15): Rousing comedy and mayhem. L.A. cops Riggs and Murtagh. Mel Gibson, Richard Gere. MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634) MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634) MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634) MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634).

LOVERS (18): In Franco's Spain, Victoria Abril deals her lover's intended marriage. Excellent tale of mad love, expertly mounted by director Vicente Aranda. MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634) MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634) MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634) MGM Fulham Road (01-731 2634).

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WATERLAND (15): Jeremy Irons as the history teacher haunted by his father's story. Good. Hanks and, inconspicuously, Madonna. Director, Penny Marshall. MGM Chelsea (01-752 5056) MGM Old Street (01-752 5056) MGM Old Street (01-752 5056) MGM Old Street (01-752 5056).

Going over the top the wrong way

LYNDA LA PLANTE, creator of that compelling police thriller, *Prime Suspect*, occupied almost as much newspaper last week as the ERM. She seemed to be giving dozens of interviews about her new television drama series, *Civvies* (BBC 1), and in each one she made sure she predicted how angry the series would make the Parachute Regiment.

Alas, the army - displaying the renowned tactical genius which causes foreign generals to mutter "c'est magnifique, mais c'est pas la guerre" - charged blindly straight into the La Plante ambush, kicking up the very "controversy" for which the BBC publicists were praying. As a result, the BBC probably pulled in enormous viewing figures for last night's opening episode.

Viewers were duly rewarded with a fistful of violence, a sour and inaccurate portrait of the Paras, some lively performances from the tough-guy actors, and a few memorable lines of macho dialogue. Noticeably absent was the brilliant plotting which gripped audiences from first to last in *Prime Suspect*.

The Paras were played as alcoholic, anti-social, unbalanced and unemployable thugs. But they had their bad points too. There was, for instance, their tendency to sink a skintful of booze and then indulge in their favourite hobby of "Paddy bashing": jumping on apparently innocent Irishmen and beating them up with all sorts of fancy kung-fu kicks and butts.

This was how we were introduced to Frank (the excellent Jason Isaacs) and his red-betted mates, operating in the Ulster urban jungle and - as a series of gory flashbacks gradually revealed - becoming emotionally scarred by the loss of comrades in a pub bomb blast. But when Frank and company left the regiment and returned to *Civvy* Street, they found the going more hazardous than a night patrol in the Falls Road.

"We'd be better off coming out of the



Active service in the Ulster urban jungle: a scene from Lynda La Plante's new BBC 1 drama series *Civvies*

rick," he moaned to his wife. That is a thesis which, one suspects, he may have a chance to test out before the series ends.

Unable to hold down a job, yet needing money to look after his badly shot-up buddy Steve (mysteriously left untreated for a sniper wound in the throat), Frank drifted into running dodgy errands for a seedy local villain. Revelling in this role, Peter O'Toole gleefully produced an accent that even the Krays might have considered a bit downmarket.

Being a highly-trained fighting machine, mean and intelligent, Frank needed only to carry a cargo of diamonds to an underworld fence and then to beat a policeman senseless before the true nature of his new job dawned on him. "It's got nothing to do with insurance, and you know it," he shouted accusingly at the ex-Para chum who got him into it.

The heavy emphasis on male-bonding rang true; when Frank became distraught, Steve threw Frank's unbelievably tolerant wife out of the kitchen,

and comforted him himself. The wham-bang action, however, was certainly not credible.

La Plante has said that she got the idea for *Civvies* from an ex-Para who came to do some building work on her house. That is exactly how it looked: a grossly embellished tale spun by a boastful builder to impress a wide-eyed lady with an over-active imagination. Not so much *Prime Suspect* as very suspect.

RICHARD MORRISON

OPERA: BELFAST

Undisguised quality

Rigoletto/Faust
Grand Opera House

all before it. From the opening bars there was a sense of raw nerve and febrile movement in the orchestra, which found its visual counterpart in the ubiquitous scarlet light, and its emotional response in the powerful relationship of this Rigoletto and this Gilda.

They were uncannily well matched physically. Kimm Julian, a tall, athletic Rigoletto from Minneapolis, with a voice and temperament to match, made an impressive European debut, alongside the diminutive child-like Susannah Waters. Her Gilda crouched in his long, dark shadow, with all the manifestations of a victim of child abuse, she clung, disbelievingly, to wall and floor, only to be pushed down still further at Rigoletto's words of comfort.

But the quality of the playing from the Ulster Orchestra under Kenneth Montgomery and the strength of the casting provided a power which swept

vocally tense and physically self-conscious Alan Ewing was a slithering Sparafucile. Paul Nemea a potent Monstrone, and Rachel Halliwell a ripe Maddalena, who will grow still further into this role.

FROM the opera Queen Victoria refused permission for her court to see, to Faust, one of her favourites. This was a revival of the company's highly successful 1989 staging: successful in the distinctive imagination at work behind its unashamedly traditional, unfussy production. Bliss Hebert and Allen Charles Klein returned to direct and refurbish: Stephen Barlow conducted with just the panache this production needs.

With its chorus sitting in wooden theatre stalls which frame the action, this is a friendly, homey *Faust*, its scenes of diablerie and horror the more chilling for its rusticity. The

Easter Fair, homespun and earthy, becomes a dumbshow of the entire opera. We know it all and yet we are constantly surprised, which is just how *Faust* should be.

Again Belfast has looked across the Atlantic and found a Canadian Faust and Mephistopheles. Neither Guy Belanger, a peevish Faust, weak of character and, alas, of voice, nor Claude Corbell, a stentorian but austere Mephistopheles, measure up to the virtuosity of their predecessors of three years ago. Kate McCarney still provides a touching Siebel and Karl Morgan Daymond a more than promising Valentin. Above all, Maureen O'Flynn sings her heart out with ardour and ease as Marguerite, and even in her testing apotheosis, really sings.

So, by the way, does Opera Northern Ireland's amateur chorus. If initiatives such as their training scheme (sponsored by Marks & Spencer) and new plans for sponsorship go ahead, the company should be able to build on its formidable strengths in casting and orchestral playing and turn up next March with a *Trovatore* well worth the voyage.

HILARY FINCH

THEATRE

Little rhyme or reason

Wit's End
New End, Hampstead

uncovered by the assiduous theatre-goer with a reference book.

Even the text can be tracked down, translated 60 years ago into sprightly, rhymed couplets that were praised as fitting to Griboyedov's achievement in fitting colloquial chatter into verse. But this is not the text used by Jake Lushington in his production for the Angel Theatre Company. Stephen Walshe's translation lacks apophthegms, snappy phrases that could persuade us that a treasure-house of foreign proverbs is being offered at a fair exchange rate into our

own currency. Planché or Gilbert or Tony Harrison are the models to have gone for: clever rhymes, outrageous, entertaining, rhythmic. The smugly corrupt society of Tsar Alexander I might then have come to life before our ears.

Griboyedov's title has also been translated as *Woe from Wit* and *The Disadvantages of Being Clever*, and this is what young Chatsky experiences on returning to Russia, where politicians and princes are obsessed, on the one hand, with foreign fads while, on the other, failing to see how stupidly

they kow-tow to persons higher in the hierarchy. Famously critical of these faults, Chatsky is so cantankerous that he offends the girl he fancies and is thought mad by Moscow's snobbish elite.

By boldly cramming a cast of 18 on to the small stage, the climactic ballroom scene looks, though it does not sound, fairly impressive in fits and starts. But in less hectic passages Lushington does not integrate the shifting focuses of attention.

Adrian Schiller makes a credible stab at the hero, keeping him lively even when sardonic. Simon Cuthbert's mournful sycophant and Sheila Mitchell's grande dame have their moments, but without the essential wit this resurrection job becomes a pointless exercise.

JEREMY KINGSTON

ENTERTAINMENTS

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SPRING: Spring Street, St James's, SW1. A collection of art in the style of the 19th century. The Mall, London WC2 0JH 01-436 3161, 10am-6pm.

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Never too young to rock 'n' roll

Rock music has its own generation gap: older fans are baffled by what's going on now. Fortysomething David Sinclair and teenager Caitlin Moran peer suspiciously across the divide at each other's heroes

THE OLD GUARD

THE trouble with kids today is that they are too respectful of their elders. Unlike the malcontents who invented rock 'n' roll, today's adolescents do not scorn the music or the fashions or even the aged heroes of their parents' generation: they embrace them. Such bands as the Grateful Dead and Pink Floyd have a significant teenage following. Michael Jackson, whose appeal to children is unrivalled, first topped the chart 22 years ago.

The Doors, Bob Marley and Jimi Hendrix are all more popular now than they were in their lifetimes, and it is young people who are buying their music. Wayne's World, the youth movie of the year, won an MTV award for its use of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody".

Such reverence for the music of the past is all very flattering to oldies who like to think they were around when rock still counted for something. But when are today's teenagers going to start thinking for themselves? Most of them seem to have developed an appreciation of rock in the first instance by rooting through the record collections of their parents, unearthing forgotten and often embarrassing items. How else to explain the cross-generational appeal of acts ranging from Jethro Tull to Abba?

The end of overt generational conflict in rock came with the rout of punk at the close of the Seventies. Remember the bitter and sweeping polemic of Johnny Rotten and his confrères — how they derided the previous generation of rockers as a bunch of "boring old farts" and promised to put an end to the "dinosaurs" acts? In the event, it was punk that quickly dated while the ancient régime tightened its grip.

The younger generation has failed to replace or rebel against this orthodoxy in anything but the most silly and superficial way. True, we now have rap, and there is a lot more bad language and gratuitously outish behaviour than there used to be. But where is the young rock act that is capable of mobilising its own generation while simultaneously alienating and scandalising older onlookers in the way that Presley or the Stones managed to do? There isn't one, unless you count Ice-T and his "kill the police" rhetoric and despite all the fuss generated by his

Body Count album, it still failed to reach the US Top 30 and barely registered in the British charts.

Where is the rising star with the talent to replace the Beatles or Dylan or Hendrix or Prince or even, God help us, Madonna? There isn't one.

The new stars are all based on the old ones. When Primal Scream were awarded the Mercury Music Prize for their album *Screamadelica* last week, the judges praised the album for being "a bold pan across several genres from soul through the Rolling Stones to house". So, a good album perhaps, but hardly revolutionary.

Most of the new heroes base their music on the traditional guitar, drums and vocals blueprint handed down by their predecessors. From the blood-and-guns thunder of American heavyweights like Nirvana (currently being sued for allegedly ripping off an old Killing Joke record) to the more eccentric antics of the best English indie groups — PJ Harvey, Curve, Suede, Silverfish et al — the ground rules remain essentially unchanged from the heyday of Led Zeppelin and Siouxsie and the Banshees.

The house and techno music which dominates the club turntables of the rave scene is a technologically updated version of rock in the first instance by rooting through the record collections of their parents, unearthing forgotten and often embarrassing items. How else to explain the cross-generational appeal of acts ranging from Jethro Tull to Abba?

Not many people over 30 wear those ridiculously baggy jeans, and still fewer are inclined to spend Friday night cruising the M25 in search of the week's chosen field. But the all-night raves and drug-assisted "happenings" plainly echo the hippy gatherings of 25 years ago. It is no surprise that there is a rave version of the old Hawkwind song "Silver Machine".

While many youngsters are content to build on or recycle the achievements of the past, others betray a stunning ignorance of the provenance of the music they enjoy. There are now people working in record companies who do not know what punk was, and the laughable idea that "alternative" rock began in the Eighties is widespread.

Despite the musical continuity which has enabled rock to extend its appeal from those aged six to 60, there has developed in recent years a vast cultural gulf between the



Talking 'bout my generation: Pink Floyd, now attracting a new young following, and the Nineties' sensation My Bloody Valentine, said to have "redefined music"



different generations of rock fans. The main split is between the pre- and post-Alan age groups. The older fans grew up before the arrival of computer games, video recorders and satellite television.

For us, rock was something that had to be sought out. I remember suffering two weeks of unbearable frustration before getting hold of Van Morrison's *Astral Weeks* album in 1968; that was as fast as my local store could order a copy. My friends and I used to pore over such albums in infinitesimal detail; hours stretched into days as we explored each precious acquisition.

Today's teenagers have been bombarded with popular music for most of their lives. There are now boundless opportunities for hearing it. For them rock has become part of the aural wallpaper of life.

And because there is so much more of it, it is somehow less important. When today's hi-tech pop fan in his Shamen T-shirt and candy-striped trainers has finished playing with his Super Mario computer game he can go and buy a video of a movie for roughly the price of a CD. If he chooses Wayne's World (this week's US No 1), he gets the (vintage) rock soundtrack thrown in. If not, so what? Kids today? They don't know they're born.

DAVID SINCLAIR

THE NEW GUARD

THIS generation — hey, pretend for a minute that all teenagers agree with me — is in the awkward and slightly embarrassing position of having to rebel against the rebels. Our parents breached every guitar-burning, drug-taking, shag-frenzy extreme. Rock 'n' roll was invented, defined and had peaked by 1975, and all that's left for us poor wee lambskins is a huge graveyard of music, which we can extirpate, copy, sample, and watch in awe on *The Rock 'n' Roll Years*. At least that's the theory.

Happily and gorgeously enough, this is all so much rubbish. Rock 'n' pop 'n' rap 'n' roll in the Nineties is alive, well, chatting up girls in nightclubs, drinking urbane amounts of alcohol, having a third nose-ring put in, and vomiting in the backs of cars, as every good Youth Culture should. Rock has recently had a nice holiday and a good dose of vitamins in the rise and rise of Grunge-Rock band Nirvana. They have injected the old cliché of drums/guitar/bass 'n' Angst with something like danger, if there's anyone out there who remembers what that looks

like. Pavepoint are also prodding inquisitively at the boundaries of Rock As We Know It, and may well do something utterly godlike and notorious in the next six months. Rap/hip-hop has had a little fight with itself, and split down the middle. On the right: the anti-semitic, anti-any-other-minority, misogynous 2 Live Crew, Luke Skiklywalker, Ice T and the rest of the crazy, screwed-up guys. On the left: the "Educators", complete with fiercely critical political lyrics and a nice line in trousers. The Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy are the leaders of the left wing of rap/hip-hop. On stage, they use blow-torches, arc-welders and oil-drummers to play such songs as "Socio-Genetic Experiment", "Television, Drug of the Nation" and a cover of the Dead Kennedy's "California Uber Alles". Sometimes, their disgust with the world is so scorching it raises blisters on the skin.

Techno/hardcore/house/acid is mutating into various different skins which, to be honest, nobody knows all the correct names for. Ambient House — now that one I do know — as practised by the Orb on their album *UFO*, is drift, dreaming, tranced-out layers of music. The Future Sound of London's *Accelerator* album is pretty damn amazing, too.

Synth music's pop face is repre-

sented by Electronic. Made up from equal parts of New Order and The Smiths, with the occasional Pet Shop Boy thrown in for good measure. Electronic make electroplated, pristine synth pop, scuffed up with hyperventilating geezer-type stuff and Barney's fey vocals. I could be a rock critic, you know.

If all this wonderful music isn't charting, and thus gaining the attention of, ahem, elderly critics of Nineties Yoo!, it is because rebellion costs money. The shades, the cigarette, the bike — and the music — are all too expensive. Most teenagers are so hideously broke they can't afford to buy the music they love and support rock 'n' roll, which has always been the mouth-piece of disaffected youth, etcetera (stop me if I go all Open University).

Instead, we the glorious skint kiddies get in a six-pack of TDK blank tapes, and turn on the radio. Mark Radcliffe's *Hit The North* on Radio 5, and John Peel on fabulous One FM are both illegal-recording worthy. And if anyone starts making comments about John Peel being too old to feed us pop-kids on all that is new and wonderful, well, Sir John of Peel is an honorary long-haired, wild-eyed, groovily-touretted teenager for ever, should he wish to be.

Of course, there are those who say there is truly nothing new — no new sounds, ideas, arrangements... May I introduce you to My Bloody Valentine, demi-gods to students everywhere, and creators of music that made me feel physically sick when I first heard it. Listening to MBV is like denying all solids and trying to live solely on Bailey's Irish Cream — which, by the way, I've tried, and it's really fun for the first week or two. My Bloody Valentine have spent the last few blank years boiling down their music to an almost toxic, concentrated brew of suffocating bliss-noise. What do they sound like? Ah, well, musing journalists tend to start babbling things about Sonic Cathedrals of Shattered Imagery, and Billowing Parables of Unfocused Sound and calling it "Womb-adelica" and so forth. The truth is, there's never been a band like My Bloody Valentine. They've redefined music with all-new notes and structures. They are The Future. The Way Forward and The Light. No, really.

So music and Youth Culture in the Nineties isn't dead — and if it's lying down, well, it may be having a nap after being on the go all night or it may just be thinking, real hard, about what to do next.

CAITLIN MORAN

CONCERTS: MANCHESTER

Starting on a high note

THIS could be very exciting. For some years now, the Halle Orchestra's audiences have been looking with envy at the programmes offered by rival orchestras in Liverpool and Birmingham, noting how new and unusual music need not play to an empty house. The appointment of Kent Nagano as music director and principal conductor designate suggests that things may change. A fair amount of publicity hype — well merited, I might add — ensured that the Free Trade Hall was almost full. And Nagano started his first Manchester season with not

one, but two works new to Britain, both of them surely works that will soon take their place in the standard repertory — a statement it is rarely possible to make with much confidence in these confused times. Messiaen's *Un Sourire* was his last work, written for the Mozart bicentenary. But it is also perhaps one of Messiaen's easiest works to programme, because it is scored for a normal orchestra and lasts only eight minutes. Its delicate textures and clear symmetrical design contain many familiar sounds. It may be too much to say that this little gem summarises a lifetime's work, but it would be hard to imagine a better introduction to the music of one of the century's greatest composers.

The jury is of course still out on where John Adams belongs, but his new *El Dorado* shows that he is not going to rest on his astonishing successes of recent years. This is a much bigger work than the *Messiah*, lasting half-an-hour and calling for a large



Nagano: great promise

orchestra. Coming on to the stage in the middle of the concert to introduce it (is this going to be another hallmark of Nagano's concerts?), Adams appeared to claim that he had left minimalism behind; well, it is perhaps a matter of how you define minimalism, and most listeners will first of all have recognised the old ostinatos and perpetual-motion gambits. But the two contrast-

ing movements, intended to reflect man's destructive effect on the environment, and composed with evident passion, contain an extraordinary amount of resourceful invention. Adams himself drew the distant analogy of Ravel's *Bolero* for the steady growth of the first movement; but both movements had a richness of detail that suggests they will be well worth getting to know much better.

Not content with two new works, Nagano ended the concert with the seldom-heard full version of Stravinsky's *Firebird* ballet. This is never going to take a proper place in the orchestral repertory: it is the kind of piece that convinces you that Stravinsky was right to prune it for concert purposes; but Nagano coaxed such persuasive and colourful playing from the orchestra that the result was a major triumph. Certainly the audience was unusually ecstatic in its reception. There are high hopes for Nagano's future in Manchester.

DAVID FALLOWS

ARTS BRIEF

Beyond Marilyn

THE latest addition to the literature about Marilyn Monroe's death purports to be the work of four psychics. The co-authors of *The Murder of Marilyn Monroe* claim to have used the ouija board to cross-examine J.F. Kennedy, Marilyn and a host of other witnesses from the beyond.

Last chance...

URDU verse and mellow jazz harmonies are brought together in the work of the British-born singer Najma Akhtar, who completes a UK tour this week. Akhtar performs ragas and "ghazals" — romantic poetry — in a traditional setting as well as with the support of an unobtrusive, semi-electric group. Her tour ends at Peterborough Town Hall (0733 317645) on Saturday.

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NATIONAL THEATRE

Baroque around the clock

Early music has caught Europe's imagination, as shown by the success of festivals and an unlikely film hit, says George Brock

Walk into any branch of Frac, France's books-and-discs chain, this month and you will come face to face with a rack full of CDs of Spanish music. Of course Spain is big everywhere this year, with the Olympics. Expo '92 and Columbus commemorations, but look closely at the covers and you will find that the display includes only Spanish baroque music.

Several of the CDs will carry a picture of the long, bearded face of Jordi Savall who is now enjoying the fruits of his long struggle to rediscover and record forgotten or misinterpreted baroque composers. One of Savall's ensembles, Hesperion XX, will be bringing its austere and haunting repertoire north to the draughty churches of Flanders for several concerts in October.

Channel-hopping on Italian television one evening this summer, I lighted on a movie awards ceremony. Killer bimbos dressed in gold foil were handing awards to a trio of French actors who starred in one of the year's least glitzy hits: a film about the spiritual life of 17th-century viol players.

Baroque is back. In Britain and Germany, taste for baroque music never receded quite so far as it did in France, Belgium and Spain. Although many baroque operas were performed at the Aix-en-Provence festival, Jean-Claude Malgoire made his Le Grande Ecurie recordings, and Les Arts Florissants won a reputation as one of the world's foremost baroque groups, a more

widespread interest in baroque music developed only slowly in the Sixties and Seventies. Conductors and musicians who wanted to play Couperin, Charpentier or Marin Marais often did so in France and Spain at the risk of empty concert halls and loss of public subsidy.

But during the 1980s, fashion began to turn. Record companies and concert promoters in France and the Benelux nations noticed the growing fame of the July baroque music festival at Saintes, a beautifully restored riverside town near Bordeaux. One of the festival's stars, the Belgian conductor Philippe Herreweghe, won over Paris with Bach's *St Matthew Passion* in 1980. In 1986, the authoritarian French court composer Jean-Baptiste Lully's opera *Alys* was a surprise hit, afterwards touring Spain, Italy and America.

As often happens in the case of such a mass rediscovery, the category of baroque music has been stretched and complicated. Scholarly battles have erupted over composers' real intentions, and the arguments have generated yet more recordings, as partisans of rival interpretations try to flood the shops, festivals and airwaves with their preferred versions.

While argument rages on in Britain between advocates of small ensembles and ancient instruments, and those who cheerfully play Mozart with full orchestra and choir, French music lovers have made a more clear-cut choice. Taste has lurched violently towards "au-

thentic" reproduction of the sounds which would have been familiar to 17th-century listeners. At the end of what the French critic Alain Lompech called "the war of the tuning forks", the rediscoverers have won. "It has become nearly impossible for a traditional orchestra successfully to play the Brandenburgs or Vivaldi's concertos," Lompech wrote recently.

But it takes a film to put classical music in the bestseller class. Just under a year ago, *Tous les matins du monde* — the film the Italian television programme was about — surprised its makers and distributors by becoming a smash hit.

The film is spare, unfolding like the novel it stems from, and revolves around a hermit-like viol player whose music can bring his dead wife back to life. More than two million people have seen the film in France, where it won seven Césars (the local Oscars). The CD of the soundtrack, played by Jordi Savall and sung by his wife, the soprano Montserrat Figueras, has sold more than 250,000 copies.

Savall deserves a special place in any account of the revival of baroque music across Europe, for his skill both in popularising some difficult music and in revealing that fascinating works were being composed at the southern end of the continent in the age of Bach and Telemann. Savall has recorded his own version of Mozart's *Requiem* (small orchestra, intimate setting),



Musical climber: Gérard Depardieu as the old Marin Marais in the award-winning film *Tous les matins du monde*

to develop his argument that Mozart belongs to the end of the baroque and not to the early phase of romantic music. But although he stresses the importance of crisp rhythm in Mozart, Savall has won his widest audience with viol music, which is as measured and lacking in ornament as can be imagined. The slow and sombre voice of the viola da gamba resounds through

Tous les matins du monde and in the heads of its small cast. Monsieur de Ste Colombe (Jean-Pierre Marielle), a recluse of monastic intensity and self-discipline, lives for his music with only his chickens and two daughters for company. The notes of the viol soothe his soul after his wife's early death, and he invests his music with such feeling that he summons her ghost.

He takes no notice of the glitter of the royal court who controlled French 17th-century music, but his family is invaded by the ambitious Marin Marais, a talented player who sees music as a means to preferment at court. The old Marais, the narrator, is played by Gérard Depardieu, and the young Marais by his son Guillaume. Marais climbs towards a

feted career as a court composer while his teacher continues to love his music with an intensity which breathes life into the most rigorous and formal works. *Tous les matins du monde* is riveting but almost plotless: people talk, eat, make love and (mostly) play music. Directed by Alain Corneau, the film is due for release in Britain in January. It is worth the wait.



A detail from the first tapestry, woven in Mortlake, London

As Slovakia has formally separated from the Czech lands and voted its new constitution through parliament, federal funds will dry up in December. Slovak businessmen who wish to promote their country ought now to invite the British to work with them in the arts. All over Slovakia, precious works of art and architecture, the heritage of 700 years of Catholic history, are waiting to be discovered by the West, and a work with strong historical links with Britain — a treasure scarcely known but priceless — is gently sleeping in the heart of the Slovak capital.

It is a depiction in six tapestries of Ovid's story of Hero and Leander. The sequence of delicate drapes, housed at present in the Mirbach Palace, are not Slovakian, Bohemian, Moravian or Hungarian; they were made at the Mortlake factory near London by Flemish workers in the 17th century, under the patronage of Charles I.

The idea of a national establish-

Jessica Douglas-Home on Bratislava's 17th-century tapestries

Behind the Slovak arras

ment for weaving tapestries came to King James I from Henry IV of France, and in 1619 he sent to Flanders for the best weavers. Three years later, Frances Cleyne — the man who was to design the Hero and Leander tapestries — was chosen as designer and chief weaver to the Mortlake factory. Although Cleyne became well-known as an engraver and a painter in England, these cartoons were his masterpiece. Parts of the sequence exist elsewhere, but only in Bratislava can you see the complete set.

In the first tapestry, we are steered for the love-story ahead. The two figures dominating the foreground face each other, hand

grasped in hand, on the steps of an ancient portico. Hero's yielding body responds to Leander's penetrating eye, the onset of his love. But his billowing blood-red cloak signals imminent danger, and Hero points with the index finger of her left hand to the cupid above, who divides them with his bow and arrow.

The colours are delicate and shimmering. Silver and gold silk is woven into the woollen yarn in key areas — on the top of waves in a glistening sea, or where the light catches the braid of a belt — and pierces our senses.

A mystery surrounds the early years of the tapestries. Although experts maintain that they were

made in Mortlake between 1630 and 1660, it is by no means clear how and when they reached Bratislava. No one knew they were in the city until 1903, when they were found rolled up behind wallpaper in a room in the Primate's Palace — a palace built in 1779 for Archbishop Jozef Bathany. No reference to their existence appears in any literature of the period.

Their value was immediately recognised, and a fierce dispute over ownership ensued. Three months previously, in August 1903, the Bratislava municipal council had bought the Primate's Palace for 120,000 crowns from the Archbishop's Residence in Estergom. But on hearing of the

find, the archbishop immediately claimed that the contract of sale did not include furnishings, so the tapestries were the property of the Church. However, a Bratislava solicitor established that in law all items behind wallpaper were fixtures included in the sale, not furnishings. Thus the municipal council won the proceedings, and the tapestries remained in the city.

The tapestries were found in remarkably good condition, but have been sent out for restoration several times this century, and work on the last two will be finished next June. This will coincide with the completion of intensive redecoration of the Primate's Palace, which will allow the complete sequence to be seen in the original setting for the first time for 30 years. Art historians and art lovers from all over the world visiting the tapestries will surely herald the start of a thriving tourist industry which will spread out to discover the rest of Slovakia's rich culture.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

● **AMSTERDAM:** De Nederlandse Opera revives Macha Makeieff and Jérôme Deschamps's production of the Jacques Offenbach *opéra bouffe*, *Les Brigands*, successfully premiered earlier this year. The young Frenchman Louis Langrée conducts. Het Muziektheater, 3 Amstel (010 5120 6254/55). Oct 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, 15, 17, 20, 22, 28.

● **FRANKFURT:** Established mixed-media group Remote Control performs *La Prison des Femmes*, the final part of a trilogy produced by Michael Laub in collaboration with composer Larry Steinbach. An Expo '92 co-production. Theater am Turm, Escherheimer Landt 2 (01049 69 1543). Oct 30, 31; Nov 4, 7.

● **LILLE:** The Festival de Lille takes British music as its theme this year. Purcell's *The Indian Queen* will be conducted by Jean-Claude Malgoire at the Opéra de Lille (Oct 23, 25). And Britten's *War Requiem* by combined English and French forces. Festival de Lille, 64 av du Président Kennedy, 59800 Lille (01033 20527423/fax: 20559175). Oct 23-Nov 21.

● **PARIS:** A new production of *La Bayadère* is staged by l'Opéra de Paris. The ballet is set in a fantastical India and revolves around a temple dancer, a bayadère, loved by a warrior who is pledged to the jealous daughter of a Rajah. Opéra de Paris Garnier, 8 rue Scribe (010331 47425371). Oct 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31.

● **PARIS:** Picasso and Objects brings together over 150 works from the "Blue Period" and illustrates most of the techniques used by the artist. Galeries Nationales du Grand Palais, Porte Champs-Élysées (010331 44131717). Daily (except Tues), 10am-5pm, Wed, 10am-10pm. Opens Oct 3-Dec 28.

● **VIENNA:** The new season at the Kammeroper opens with a staging of Hans Werner Henze's *The English Cat* in a co-production between Wiener Staatsoper and Wiener Konzerthaus. Markus Stenz directs. Wiener Kammeroper, Fleischmarkt 24, 1010 Wien (010431 5120100). Oct 28, 31; Nov, 7, 9, 11.

KARI KNIGHT

Spain's answer to the Tate is splendid if controversial

Madrid's modern masters

THE Reina Sofia museum — the national modern art museum in Madrid — is officially open at last. It has borne the Queen's name since it was first opened more than six years ago, but only now houses a permanent collection, because successive ministers of culture and museum directors have argued long and fiercely over what it should include.

Already, Spanish art critics have complained that it omits many vital 20th-century artists. But the decision to base the chronological presentation of the modern movement on a backbone of works by Spain's "big five" — Picasso, Miró, Dalí, Juan Gris and Julio González — is bold and impressive. It certainly makes the best introduction in Spain to the subject.

"Our idea was that this museum should not just be a store of works, but offer a way of looking at art in its place and context," said the museum's director, María Corral, at the press launch. "The permanent collection goes up to the 1960s, because we already have some historical perspective up to then; the other items on show are proposals that might be changed."

The official opening of the

museum follows the government's decision to reorganise its art collections, including the controversial move of Picasso's *Guernica* from the Prado to the Reina Sofia. Next month, the Thyssen collection opens nearby. This will create a golden triangle of art museums in Madrid, each within walking distance of the others.

On the second floor of the spacious Reina Sofia (once a huge 18th-century hospital), 367 works are on show, of which about a quarter are "proposals". Most were selected from the 12,000 works in the museum's own collection, which was mainly inherited from the former Contemporary Arts Museum, inconveniently located on the outskirts of Madrid. Most of the key works, however, come from the Prado.

Picasso's fine *Woman in Blue* (1901) is the first exhibit, but further on it is easy to miss the star of the show, his

Guernica (1937), which has been hung inexplicably in a side room, greatly restricting the view of it. Visitors are funnelled in to see the painting from behind a plate glass window, and all Picasso's anger at the Spanish Civil War seems to be bottled up in the stark chamber.

There are whole rooms of Julio González sculptures, of the Paris School, and of Dalí and Miró paintings. The wall devoted to Juan Gris is stunning, with his pictures of grapes, wine, tobacco and guitars reflecting the essential flavours of Spain. There are 25 Dalís, including his portrait of Luis Buñuel (1924) and *The Great Masturbator* (1929). Of later artists, the sculptor Eduardo Chillida's metalwork *Toki Egin* (1989) is a magnet for visitors.

The building has glass lifts on the outside, in the style of the Pompidou Centre, and has ample space for temporary shows, a good bookshop and a library. The pleasant bar and café could usefully be extended, in the style of New York's Metropolitan Museum, to the splendid inner garden patio, with its sculpture displays.

EDWARD OWEN

Karen Blixen's home still resonates with her memory

Danish echoes of Africa

THOMAS DINESEN and his relationship with his sister Karen Blixen are the focus of the autumn exhibition at the Danish author's birthplace, Rungstedlund House, north of Copenhagen. This was the family home, with grounds overlooking the Baltic Sound between Denmark and Sweden. Thomas (1892-1979) enlisted with the Canadian Royal Highlanders, and was awarded the VC in 1918 for bravery at the front in France. In the early 1920s, he paid two lengthy visits to his sister's African farm to help manage her coffee plantation in Kenya's Ngong Hills, and he renewed his ties with her in Denmark in later years.

The exhibition features personal effects including diaries and photographs from Dinesen's stays in Kenya and his Great War experiences. He wrote short stories, memoirs

and a biographical work on his sister, and the exhibition gives an intimate glimpse into Karen Blixen's Kenya.

Baroness Blixen (1885-1962), also known by her pen-name Isak Dinesen, returned to Rungstedlund in 1931 when her Kenyan farm failed, living and writing there until her death. She produced seven collections of short stories besides the memoir *Out of Africa*. Her works — written in English — first found success in America in the 1930s.

"Blixen wrote virtually all her books in this house," says the museum's curator, Marianna Wrenfeldt Asmusen. "It was sales of her books after the film *Out of Africa* that produced enough cash to turn it into a museum last year." The film of Blixen's life in Kenya, starring Robert Redford and Meryl Streep, won seven Oscars in 1986.

On her desk stand photographs of Denys Finch Hatton, her English lover in Kenya, who died in a plane crash only weeks before Blixen left Africa. African spears and shields decorate one wall of her study, where she wrote *Winter's Tales*, her favourite collection of stories. A chest from her farm is in the living room, with other memorabilia, including a wind-up gramophone given her by Finch Hatton and the little Corona typewriter on which she wrote letters home from Africa.

Upstairs is the room overlooking the sea where Blixen died. The wall is hung with writings from Buddha and the Koran. Blixen is buried at the foot of a spreading beech behind the house, her grave marked by a simple stone slab.

CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT

Fly free USA with our three exclusive offers

Wild country

Seattle, on the Pacific Ocean, is the biggest city in the far north-west of the United States, and the gateway to all the spectacular, wild country bordering the legendary North-west Passage. You are not far from Canada here, with Vancouver just over the border.

Seattle began as a logging camp, and is a friendly city, with trolley-buses running along the waterfront and splendid seafood restaurants. You can go on a harbour tour to Tillicum Indian Village and have a salmon bake there. The port is full of Pacific-bound ships. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park is also in Seattle. Seattle Centre

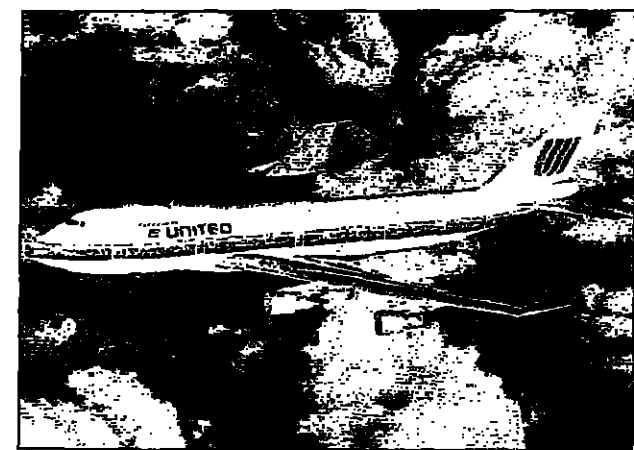


Seattle's Space Needle

was built for the 1962 World's Fair, and includes the soaring 605 ft Space Needle.

To the east are the Cascades, a jagged chain of mountains, and beyond these lie the states of Idaho and Montana. In Montana, the Rocky Mountains surge across, dividing the lakes and forests from the Great Plains further east. The world's first National Park was the famous Yellowstone Park, which spreads over the borders of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Geysers are its most remarkable feature, including Steamboat, the world's largest geyser, though years may pass between its eruptions, and Old Faithful, which can be relied on to spout every 30 to 95 minutes.

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In memory of a bad spell

Salem, notorious for its witch hunts 300 years ago, is still feuding — this time about the anniversary. Kate Muir reports

Three hundred years ago this week, Mary Easty, a 58-year-old mother of seven, was condemned as a witch and hanged at Salem in Massachusetts. Accused of a pact with Satan, she was strung up with seven others from a black locust tree on Gallows Hill. Her last carefully inked words were these:

"Knowing my own innocence and seeing plainly the wiles and subtlety of ray accusers, I petition not for my own life, for I know I must die and my appointed time is set, but that it be possible, that your honours examine these afflicted persons strictly and keep them apart some time, and likewise try some of these confessing witches, I being confident that several of them has belied themselves. I cannot, I dare not belie my own soul."

Mrs Easty was voicing what even the courts admitted later — that the young, seemingly possessed girls who fell into fits and accused her of witchcraft were frauds, and the 20 men and women condemned to death during the terrible summer of 1692 were innocent of all charges. In a time of great social and economic upheaval, Salem village's hysteria fed on bitter, decade-long feuds over land, taxes and even the appointment of the local minister. When that boiled over into mass delusion and denunciations, even the most innocent people — solid, churchgoing, English emigrant farmers' wives like Mrs Easty — were no longer safe. All that is taken as read now, the witch hunt is studied for its insights into lynch-mob mentality, not black magic.

Three centuries on, Salem might be expected to have learned from its past, but little has changed. The town is still obsessed with witchcraft and still divided by feuds. Admittedly, the citizens' disputes are of a less dangerous nature, more likely to end up in the *Salem Evening News* (logo: witch on broomstick) than on Gallows Hill. The present three-way brawl concerns the tercentenary and whether it should

be celebrated, or commemorated. The serious faction — the librarians, the civil rights activists, the historians — feels it should be commemorated as a shameful abuse of human rights, and has commissioned a vast stone memorial carved with the victims' names.

The commercial faction is celebrating raking it in, with sales doubling of "I'm a witch — fly me!" T-shirts, plastic pumpkins, blow-up black cats and "My other car's a broomstick" stickers.

The supernatural faction is complaining that both scholars and salespersons are unfairly portraying witches as either devil-worshipping or green-faced, barking mad

hags. Further trouble has been brewing this week as more than a hundred witches from Salem's modern covens celebrate Mabon, the autumn equinox, at their high altar erected in the somewhat prosaic surroundings of the old town hall. The witches are also complaining that religious fanatics, attracted by the tercentenary, keep trying to save them from sin by praying aggressively at them in the street.

All is not well, then, in the town of Salem. Will T. La Moy knows this. He is the chief librarian at the Essex Institute, which houses an extraordinary collection of personal letters, county records and transcripts from the witchcraft court. An upright, decent, bearded man, he bemoans the "themeparking" of Salem. "There is no need for anything like that here. We have the original architecture and artefacts, family papers and diaries; we don't need to recreate them. We feel it's our responsibility to keep the right perspective — that there was a travesty of justice here, and that the victims need commemoration, not sensationalising. It's about history, not tourism."

But tourism was inevitable, almost from the start. When the hanging stopped on September 22, 1692, the hype began. Hardly had various accusers admitted that "a delusion of Satan" had caused

them to fabricate their charges, than the Rev John Hale was in there with the first Salem blockbuster, *A Modest Inquiry Into the Nature of Witchcraft*, published in 1702.

A century later came Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, a dark and brooding novel of the hounding of a woman caught in adultery by a descendant of the trials' hanging judge, John Hathorne. Nathaniel supposedly added the "w" to distance himself from his tainted ancestor, whom he describes as a "persecuting spirit who made himself so conspicuous in the martyrdom of the witches, that their blood may fairly be said to have left a stain upon him."

Now, in 1992, Nathaniel's is, of course, the upmarket restaurant serving "seasonal American cuisine" in the Hawthorne Hotel.

There is worse to be had in the fake-cobbled streets, where the repro trolley bus filled with tourists wearing naked-girl-riding-broomstick T-shirts, sucking Witchpop lollies, trundles round the "heritage trail" and ends up outside the Salem Witch Museum.

Alison D'Amario, the historian at the witch museum, says the show is "historically accurate and quite dramatic". She apologises for her business card, which features a witch and broomstick. "People come from all over the world



The whole truth: *The Trial of George Jacobs* by Tompkins Harrison Matteson (1855), showing the events of 1692 which led to Jacobs being hanged on August 19

because they associate Salem with witchcraft. It fascinates them, and most of them are not scholars but tourists, and they want to take back a souvenir. They come with all sorts of misconceptions — that witches were burned at the stake for instance — and we do our best to educate them a little." She points to a lecture series, featuring academics, legal experts and, of course, real-life witches.

The museum is a disused church with the arched windows blanked out with red paint so the polyester-clad and largely overweight tourists can enjoy a full audio visual re-experiencing of the witch trials. The performance begins with Hammer Horror-style music in the darkness, the narrator's voice booms, and the lights go up on a fork-tailed devil standing in the corner. His red eyes glow in the dark. The audience sniggers. The brochure notes that the lifelike figures were made in 1972 from polyester resin. The only way out of this chamber of horrors is through the gift shop.

If the hanged Puritans could turn in their graves, they would. Unfortunately, being common criminals because of the accusations of witchcraft, they were denied a proper burial and tucked into natural crevices in the hillside. This year, however, Salem atoned for that and built a memorial in the form of a dry-stone walled garden

with each victim's name engraved on one of 20 giant blocks protruding from the wall.

One block is for Giles Corey, the only accused witch who was not hanged. Instead, because he refused to plead guilty or not guilty, his body was pressed under heavy stones. Eventually his ribs broke under the weight and he died. Underneath six black locust trees, ground stones are inscribed with some of the pleas, which run out in mid-sentence just as the victim's lives did. "I am wholly innocent of such wickedness. I am no witch..." says one. The memorial is overlooked by the gravestones of the town cemetery — including that of John Hathorne.

Earlier this year, the memorial was unveiled by the playwright Arthur Miller, who is now 87. He dramatised the witch trials in 1953 in *The Crucible* and brought out their parallels with McCarthyism. "The witch trials were the result of a local insanity, people acting en masse and going berserk. Miller used that to show McCarthy's pursuit of supposed communists was a form of national insanity," says Mr La Moy.

Salem's present-day witches say there is no need to look to McCarthyism or any other analogies. They claim that persecution of

witches still continues today. Laurie Cabot, Salem's official witch (appointed by Michael Dukakis when he was state governor) says a number of Salem coven members have been harassed by religious fanatics in the street, and warning letters have been sent to the harassers by the district attorney's office.

Ms Cabot gives an analysis of the situation over some rather odd-tasting tea in her house. "Witchcraft is a nature-based religion that predates Christianity. Our religion is benign, but the tercentenary gives the impression all witches are devil-worshippers. It has caused people to be very aggressive towards us." She has just been shopping for paper plates for the cakes at the Mabon celebration, and wearing her usual clothes: diaphanous black robes and a silver pentacle. It does not come as a surprise that people run up to her yelling in the street, or that they barge into her black-painted, signposted "Witch House", which also includes her daughter's shop — Crow Haven Corner — selling witch equipment and potions.

Ms Cabot takes the abuse on the chin, being the founder of the Witches' League for Public Awareness, and eager to make her point in public. *Discrimination* against witches, she points out, is now illegal in America. The 1986

federal court case of *Dettmer v. Landon* established that witchcraft is a recognised religion under the First Amendment rights to free speech. Legal decisions have not, however, served to change the mind of the minister at Salem's Wesleyan and Lafayette Street United Methodist Church. The Rev Kenneth Siegler warns that witches need to know that religious neopaganism is not harmless. "It's like taking a thimble of arsenic a day until you are dead," he informed the local newspaper.

Beliequered on all sides, Ms Cabot is also disgusted by the tacky witchmobilia found throughout the town. "Every T-shirt in town depicts us as green-faced, dirty and ugly," she says, displaying her distinctly white face, and pale pink varnished nails.

But Ms Cabot is unlikely to bite the tourist hand that feeds her and her family. Where else but Salem would "Witchcraft as Science" seminars go down so well, and where else would her daughter be able to sell kitchen herbs packaged as love potions and bomber jackets with pentacles on the back and the logo, "The Witches of Salem"?

Like almost everyone else, she too is making a quick buck out of a shameful episode of American history. Somehow, the distance of 300 years makes an atrocity a very commercial proposition.

Return the coupon below for tickets to the debate on women at the Institute of Education, Bedford Way, London (October 6, 7.30pm). The speakers will be Neil Lyndon, seconded by Kenneth Minogue, and Yvonne Roberts, seconded by Beatrix Campbell.

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Christine Spreiter is a top competitor in one of the world's most hazardous and exhilarating sports

On wind and wave in a lead waistcoat

A lot of people would not mind following in Christine Spreiter's footsteps this year: from Hawaii to New Caledonia, Barbados, France, Puerto Rico, back to Hawaii on to Japan, Venezuela, Tenerife, Italy, and, last week, Brighton. There's only one problem: 200 kilos of excess baggage in the shape of six boards, 12 sails and a lead waistcoat she wears to windsurf faster.

"Some women shy away from the thought of lugging all that gear about," she said at the Old Ship Inn. "But if you want something hard enough you do it."

Last week Brighton played host to the British leg of the Aramis New West Windsurfing World Cup. At 28, Ms Spreiter is the top UK woman competitor, now ranked number 10 in the world after only one full year on the grand prix circuit. She was educated in Scotland but was born in California and looks it, with streaky fair hair and blue eyes.

Her father was professor of applied mechanics and aerodynamics at Stanford University in San Francisco and such lecture courses as "Geophysical Fluid Dynamics" — studying wave formation and tidal phenomena — were mother's milk to her. But she was keen to put theory into practice, learning to swim at six weeks of age and spending each of her first few winters in Hawaii, playing among the mightiest waves in the world.

Ms Spreiter has an impressive sprinkling of letters after her own name: BVM&S, MRCVS, or veterinary surgeon for short. She studied for five years in Edinburgh, then went into general practice for a year in Wales, windsurfing all the while off the Gower peninsula. "The trouble was I only had Thursdays off, and there never seemed to be any wind on Thursdays."

In the midst of ministering to sick budgeters, the siren call of Hawaii became too strong and she left her job in 1988 and took off for Maui.



Surfing for honours: Christine Spreiter, on the water at Maui, is ranked first in Britain and tenth in the world

Just as the North Shore on the neighbouring island of Oahu is the mecca of surfers from the four corners of the earth, so Ho'okipa is a compulsory pilgrimage for windsurfers. It is that geographical rarity, a big-wave spot with cross-shore winds, funnelled and intensified as they pass between a pair of extinct volcanoes.

"I wanted to get back into the big waves," Ms Spreiter said, "and I imagine that a windsurfing rig was the only

thing that was going to keep me alive out there." In 1989 she entered the trials for a professional windsurfing contest in Ho'okipa. She came through the first round of one-on-one heats, and then lost. She did not get anywhere near the main event and could beat only an unknown Swiss, but that was enough: she was hooked on the spiralling addiction of the pro tour.

She had one great incentive for competing in that first

contest. She needed a new rig. All she had was a \$50 second-hand sail joined to an old barge with a sponge-like appetite for water. She was so successful at talking companies into sponsoring her that she was deluged with equipment before the race. But it was a sail-making company based in Hawaii that nursed her through her initiation into pro windsurfing and which she is now repaying by opening up its first outlet in Britain,

at Windermere. "It's a case of putting my money where my mouth is. If I believe what I say, that my performance is going to make their product more saleable, then I should be able to go ahead and sell it."

Wave-sailing is the ultimate synthesis of board and sail, wind and wave, carving across the surface with a 20ft high wall and several million tons of white water tagging along at your shoulder. But plugging into the power of the ocean can

exact a heavy price. Clare Seeger, another leading British pro windsurfer also based in Hawaii, was unable to make it to Brighton partly as a result of a catalogue of injuries sustained during the past year or so: sprained limbs, broken bones, a perforated eardrum, and being stabbed in the stomach by her own fin and nearly bleeding to death.

Ms Spreiter hasn't yet had to call on her own surgical skills to sew herself up. "I usually manage to get to the hospital in time," she said.

"I'm better at avoiding trouble now I have contact lenses and can see it coming. The thing about women in Hawaii is that they just get straight back in the water, no matter what."

Being a professional does not necessarily mean you are making a fortune. In fact, without the endorsements enjoyed by a handful of sailors, Ms Spreiter is only just breaking even, financing her travelling expenses from her contest earnings. "When I went to New Caledonia this year, I calculated I had to make fourth to cover the £1,500 it cost to take part." She made fourth. "Yeah, but I was lying eighth for a while and I wasn't very happy about it."

Things are looking up. Next year an airline will be footing her excess baggage bill and a sportswear company is kitting her out in wetsuits. Her ambition is to break into the top five in the world, but she has another career as a painter, fancies writing, and doesn't rule out going back to veterinary work.

There is only one thing worse for a windsurfer than the devastating hurricane that recently hit Hawaii, ripping up trees and houses, and that is a sunny September on the south coast of England, where the tourists are sitting in deckchairs reading newspapers, barely ruffled by the gentlest zephyr. I left her praying for a miracle and a maelstrom.

ANDY MARTIN

Has feminism failed?

Return the coupon below for tickets to the debate on women at the Institute of Education, Bedford Way, London (October 6, 7.30pm). The speakers will be Neil Lyndon, seconded by Kenneth Minogue, and Yvonne Roberts, seconded by Beatrix Campbell.

THE TIMES DILLONS DEBATE

Please send me invitation(s) at £10 (students & OAPs £5) each for the women debate on October 6.

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WA £16,000 + BENS

BORN ORGANISER

We need a bright, outgoing and professional PA to work for this friendly Marketing Director of a large West End company. Your day will involve a lot of organisation and administration (at least 50%), coordination of meetings, liaison with clients and suppliers as well as creative computer work on presentations. You must be full of energy, confident and capable with some graphics/spreadsheet experience and a solid work history. Call Victoria or Sarah to hear more on 071 225 1888.

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Do you want to become part of a superior temporary team who enjoy their temp assignments by making them part of their career? Our clients will expect you to have excellent skills (90/60) and a good knowledge of MASS II, WORD FOR WINDOWS OR MS WORD ON APPLEMAC and a good knowledge of presentation and business-like performance will be rewarded with good rates, long term bookings and a friendly, genuine service. Please call Lucy or Jo on 071 225 1888 to talk about joining our well established temp team.

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Eros Products Limited is the leading supplier of plastic character merchandise in Europe. The distinctive characters depicted on our products are internationally recognisable and in worldwide demand.

Eros is experiencing phenomenal growth throughout Europe and now seeks to strengthen the team with experienced high calibre self motivated secretarial staff to assist further in developing our business throughout Europe.

We require two commercially minded secretaries in the age group 25 to 35 to work with the Managing Director and the Export Marketing/Sales Director respectively. Whilst a second language, preferably French, would be beneficial to the Managing Director, it is not essential. The Export Department seeks a bilingual secretary with fluent Spanish as a pre-requisite. Further language skills in either German or French is essential. Short hand would be a definite advantage in both positions.

For the right candidates we offer an excellent remuneration package, a stimulating and very exciting business environment with regular European and International travel which includes frequent trips to the Far East.

If you feel that you are personable, can associate and mix freely at international levels, are smart of appearance, have the right secretarial background together with the necessary language skills, free to travel and stay away for lengthy business visits when requested, then we would like to hear from you. Please telephone Eric on 071 254 4545 to arrange an appointment to come and see us.

Traders

Sec/Asst.

£17,000

- SW1

A fantastic opportunity exists for a spirited, enthusiastic secretary to work in the fast and lively world of trading. Beautiful office and excellent benefits await you when you join this successful company working for three young executives. A flexible attitude, good secretarial skills (90/60/60) and a smart, polished appearance essential. W/Perf 5.1 and spreadsheet knowledge preferred. Age 22-27. Please call Fiona Moriarty on 071-437 6832.

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We seek to fill a secretarial vacancy which is at the very heart of editorial and managerial decision making in BBC TV News.

You need to combine excellent secretarial and organisational skills with the ability to maintain high office standards without the need for close supervision. The pace of work will, at times, be demanding so you must enjoy working under the pressure of tight deadlines and be able to assess priorities. You will need to have the confidence to deal with a broad range of people, and be aware of the need for confidentiality.

In addition an interest in news and current affairs will be a definite advantage.

Starting salary £15,000 p.a. Based West London.

For an application form contact (quote ref. 10908/T) BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, PO Box 7000, London W12 7ZY. Tel: 081-749 7000. Minicom 081-752 5151.

Application forms to be returned by September 30th.

WORKING FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE BI-LINGUAL PA
circ. 20k + Exc Bens

Prestigious Int. Bank requires a high calibre Secretary for their Corporate Finance Division. You will have had previous banking exp. Good French or German will be fully utilised as will your organisational and communication skills. Short hand is also appreciated and exp. of Word for Windows is a prerequisite. Age range 25-35. Call Sue on 071 638 9205. Zarak Hay Associates, (Rec. Cons).

Zarak Hay
ASSOCIATES

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE - £18,000

We are looking for a really good Secretary to work alongside the overworked PA to the Chairman of a large British company based in the heart of Mayfair. A demanding role for a young person seeking challenge and variety at the highest level. Skills 100/60. Age about 24.

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES
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PA £12,000

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Successful, dynamic PR Consultancy with large travel U.K. specialist team. You will assist account executive in all aspects of business from client liaison to preparing proposals, etc. typing 70/60. Applicant exp. useful.

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BI-LINGUAL SECS c.£18,000 - High calibre secretaries with fluent French or German & excellent skills (including shorthand) are in regular demand.

BANKING SECS £15,750 - Solid banking background, shorthand, WP skills & O'level education required.

GRADUATE RECRUITMENT SEC c.£16,500 - Arrange exhibitions for graduate recruitment if you're educated to at least A' level with good secretarial skills & experience.

Call LORRAINE PHAIR, 071 606 0011

Office Angels

PROPERTY SECRETARY
£16,500+

An exciting role has arisen for an enthusiastic secretary to assist two directors in a small firm of property consultants based at Blackfriars. Using your organisational ability, you will arrange meetings and lunches, greet visitors and be thoroughly competent in WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows. This skill is essential in order to create documents for presentations to clients.

You should have accurate audio typing (min 65 wpm) and preferably shorthand as well. Other important considerations are well developed interpersonal skills, a flexible approach and a sense of humour.

If you are looking for variety and involvement write with copy of CV to Jonathan Edwards, 162 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4BS.

No agencies

KNIGHTSBRIDGE
SECRETARIESFUN WITH FUNDS
£19,000 in SW1

This successful and expanding International Finance Group with offices from Hong Kong to Luxembourg has recruited a new Executive to head their Fund Management team. His quiet, informal style of working would suit a true assistant with a buoyant sense of humour with innate self confidence, drawn from a minimum of 2 years knowledge of its investment banking background.

If you are in your late 20's have good communication skills and would enjoy this fun and professional environment in Central Knightsbridge, please call. (Skills 90/60).

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Secretarial Recruitment ConsultancyPA ADMINISTRATOR /
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c.£17k + Sub + Exc Bonus

Graduate Sec or similar ability - Age Open

PA/Administrator req'd for the Head of Treasury & assisting his Star Mgrs with admin. Organised individual able to cope under pressure. (Skills 90/60/60) - 2 yrs exp. req'd. City based. Tel: 081 502 5455 / 5468 Fax: 081 502 5484. Lombard Recruitment Services Ltd.

EVENING SECRETARY

The London office of a US firm of attorneys located in Mayfair requires an experienced Secretary. WordPerfect 5.1 and Word for Windows, together with a mature attitude and the ability to work with minimum supervision are prerequisites for this position. The hours will be from 5.30pm to 9pm until 9pm daily, Monday to Friday. Willingness to do additional evening hours and weekend work would be a definite plus. Please forward your CV, together with a covering letter stating your expected salary, to: Yvonne Smith, Conington & Burdett, 46 Bedford Street, London W1Y 7TP. NO AGENCIES

SECRETARY/PA
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CONSULTANCY

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St. James's College in Kensington offers short courses in Word Processing, Keyboarding, Shorthand on an intensive or part-time basis. 25% TAX RELIEF FOR ALL SELF-FUNDED TRAINING. 071 573 3832

PA/SECRETARY

Hard working, cool headed, versatile secretary with WP experience, some bookkeeping helpful. Required for busy international art dealer. Stamina for travel essential, salary approx £15,000. Please send handwritten letter with CV to Sue Marchington, 26 Lennox Gardens, London SW1X 0DQ.

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Newspapers,
P.O. Box 484,
Virginia Street,
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SENIOR SECRETARY

Chairman's Office

London SE1

c.£18,000 p.a. + bens.

Our client seeks a first class PA/Secretary to provide a confidential secretarial service to the Chairman and other Board Members of this PLC.

Essential skills include shorthand, audio and Wordperfect 5.1. Your spelling and grammar must be excellent and you need to have the necessary office management skills expected for this level of appointment. Aged 24-45, you should be of very smart appearance and have an out-going confident personality.

This position is based within walking distance of London Bridge Station and free parking is available if you wish to drive to work. Other benefits include pension scheme, life assurance and BUPA.

To apply please send/fax CV with hand-written covering letter, quoting Ref: TT000/60

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Join the youngest Board member of a major British plc as he takes the company into a period of growth and acquisition.

As his PA he expects you to provide full organisational and administrative support as well as demonstrate an active interest in the varied projects he is undertaking.

You will need skills of 100/60, four years solid experience within a plc and a proven interest in corporate finance.

CALL US ON 071 287 7788
ANGELA MORTIMER
Secretarial Recruitment Consultancy

Secretary
for two Partners Designate

Are you interested in an opportunity to further your career in a progressive professional environment? We can provide you with scope to develop your skills and experience.

The successful candidate will be self motivated and adaptable to a constantly changing work load, with the ability to liaise with clients and possess a good telephone manner. If you meet the requirements stated and feel that you have the right qualities to offer, we will provide a remuneration package to match as well as exciting career opportunities. Please write in confidence to Miss C. Humphries enclosing a detailed curriculum vitae.

9 Brooks Court Croydon Street London SW8 5BX

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£20,000

Smart! Stylish! Professional! Pro-active! Enjoy working to high standards? Tick the majority of the above and you qualify to call us to discuss our latest exciting challenge.

A levels preferred 22 - 34
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ANGELA MORTIMER
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Polish Speaking Secretary

c.£17,000 + London

Fast paced Eastern European section of UK management consultancy requires secretary to support two principals. Must have strong telephone and organisational skills to liaise with overseas offices, make travel arrangements and handle general office administration. Knowledge of Apple Macintosh necessary (Word, FileMaker Pro, Excel and MacDraw) for proposals and presentations. Fluency in Polish essential. An exciting challenge for the right dedicated and motivated individual.

Project Coordinator

c.£19,500 + London

Superb opportunity for an ambitious PA/Secretary. Apple Macintosh experience essential as is event or conference organising. Good secretarial skills are a prerequisite and your ability to lead will put you at the forefront of this young and exciting management consultancy.

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MacTemps

67 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6BU
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£18,000 + PACKAGE

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Please telephone 071 248 3744
for more information

Elizabeth Hunt
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Exercise your initiative in a responsible and challenging appointment.

Key Requirements:
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• Expertise in office management and secretarial skills
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A highly competitive salary to reflect experience and responsibility is offered. Write in confidence, with CV to Director, Royal United Services Institute, Whitehall, London SW1 2ET.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Required for a small friendly training/recruitment firm specialising in publishing based in the West End. You will be in your early thirties, computer literate, have good keyboard skills and be able to run a frantic company's systems. Based in reception you will have plenty of people contact. No smokers preferred.

Salary £11 - 13,000
Please telephone Bernadette Kenny on 071 439 9634
Please no agencies

REGAN AND DEAN
PA/SECRETARY - £15,000

SPECIALIST PRODUCTION/DESIGN CO.
We are a specialist recruitment consultancy in the TV and radio production industry. We are looking for a PA/Secretary to support the Head of TV and Radio Production at a very successful TV production company. The successful candidate will be a graduate with a degree in a relevant subject, ideally with a background in the production industry. They will be responsible for the day to day running of the office and will be expected to have a good knowledge of the production industry. Please call Kate Dean on 071-400 3244.
REGAN AND DEAN RECRUITMENT LTD.,
63 South Molton Street, London W1

Executive PA
c.£23,000

West End Merchant Bank, proud of its reputation, seeks a first class PA with financial experience to work for the Managing Director. Planning his day with meticulous precision, gaining the respect and trust of clients, organising corporate hospitality events and assisting with some personal work will demand a committed, well organised professional. The successful candidate will be intelligent ('A' level education), discrete and diplomatic with a sound CV in the financial sector. Skills 100/60/60. Age 27-35.

Please telephone Christine O'Leary
on 071 434 4512.

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSLynchpin
£20,000-SW1

A young firm of Management Consultants need a highly organized and team spirit PA/Secretary to ensure the smooth running of their busy office. This varied and challenging role will call upon your organisational and interpersonal skills as you design and implement new office systems, supervise 2 secretaries and assist the consultants with presentations and proposals. This is an exciting opportunity to make an active contribution to an expanding company. 60 wpm typing, good WP skills and A' levels preferred. Age 27-40. Please call Katy Osborne on 071 437 6832.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

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PA to Media Director c.£15,000

A World Class Media Company is looking for a World Class Secretary for one of its high flying Board Directors and his team. He is one of the best within his field and is looking for a secretary of a similar level. The personal attributes required are as follows:
• A highly resilient temperament
• A passion for work
• A team player
• A Word for Windows wizard would be ideal here but training given. It will help if you live within easy reach of the City, have an Advertising Agency background and are around 22-30 years. I am Wendy Robinson, the agency of Media is here. Call me NOW on 071 240 0040 or fax me on 071 240 1969. Working Girls Recruitment Ltd.

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THURSDAY
General Appointments: Management, Engineering, Science & Technology, with editorial.
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SATURDAY REVIEW
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LIFE & TIMES WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23 1992

CHANNEL 4

5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Jealous men: after the same man is interviewed (4) (7381588)

5.50 The Barbary Tales. Animated adventures of a group of sporting lions (4) (649648)

6.00 Treasure Hunt. Annetta Rice rushes over the west Yorkshire countryside looking for hidden treasure (1). (Teletext) (14965)

7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) Weather (154385)

7.50 Comedy (738507)

8.00 Brookside. Soap set in a suburban Merseyside close. (Teletext) (s) (8472)

8.30 The Doctor Mores: Sins of the Father. The real alive-to-day detective is in his element tonight as he investigates a murder at a local brewery. Starring John Thaw, Kevin Whately and Lionel Jeffries (1). (Teletext) (22588)

10.30 Picking Them In. Variety show hosted by Jenny Eclair, Frank Skinner, Roger Mann and Kevin Eldon. Appearing tonight are Owen O'Neill, Ozie Cannonelli and the Rubber Bishops (4) (73453)

11.15 The Prisoner. The first of a repeat of the year-long experiment in a strange world. With Lee McKern, Virginia Maskell, Guy Doleman, Paul Edlington and George Barker. (Teletext) (792491)

12.15am The Steve Allen Show (Dvd). American 1950s comedy show. Tonight's guests include Bud Abbott and Lou Costello (14219)

12.45 Films: Aar (1952). Hindi drama about the love affair between a peasant of noble descent and an arrogant princess. Starring Dilip Kumar, Nargis and Nimmi. Directed by Mehboob Khan. (English subtitles) (73367279). Ends at 3.35

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Fishermen turn lifeboatsmen of Newlyn had not rowed out to save them in December 1971.

Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast 12.43 As World Service (LW only)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1069kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8; Radio 2: FM-88.90-2; Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.4; Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6; Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM-97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8; GUR: 1458kHz/206m; FM-94.9;

[illegible]